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Inter-Arab Affairs

More on GCC Ministerial Council Session

'Text' of Communique Issued

LD0609162490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah 6 Sept, SPA—Their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member countries this afternoon concluded the proceedings of the 36th session of the ministerial council, which was held at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah.

At the beginning of the final session held by their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers, his excellency the secretary general of the GCC, 'Abdallah Bisharah, read out the final communique of the 36th session of the ministerial council, the text of which follows:

The ministerial council held its 36th session on Wednesday 16 Safar 1411 H., corresponding to 5 September 1990, in Jeddah under the chairmanship of His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, foreign minister of the Sultanate of Oman, in the presence of their highnesses and excellencies:

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Message to Mubarak on Relations

NC0709111090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1048 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Tunis, 7 Sep (MENA)—Responsible Palestinian sources have told the MENA reporter in Tunis that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat sent a message to President Husni Mubarak on the Gulf crisis and Egyptian-Palestinian relations.

The sources said Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to President 'Arafat, left Tunis for Cairo yesterday to convey 'Arafat's message to President Mubarak.

More on Khalaf Interview Regarding Saddam Terms

PM0709103490 Paris LIBERATION in French 4 Sep 90 pp 2, 4

[Interview with PLO "number two" Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, by Jose Garcon in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] Tunis—[Garcon] The PLO is taking many initiatives to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis and is asserting that Saddam is prepared to negotiate. On what basis?

[Iyad] Saddam Husayn is prepared to negotiate and withdraw from Kuwait if he obtains certain guarantees. Indeed, there is no guarantee that if he withdraws from Kuwait and releases the hostages, Iraq will not be attacked just the same. He is convinced that the United States has not mobilized all its forces for Kuwait alone, but that it intends to take advantage of this crisis in particular to weaken the Iraqi army as much as possible, to destroy all the nonconventional weapons in its arsenal, and to prevent it from using the oil weapon for political purposes. He thinks that remaining in Kuwait or withdrawing will not change this American determination at all. And this is now his real problem. Can Europe give him guarantees that he will not be attacked? At all events, he is now open to negotiations. That is a new Iraqi position.

[Garcon] Your optimism contrasts with the UN secretary general's pessimism....

[Iyad] Perhaps Perez de Cuellar made the mistake of starting at the end, in other words, with the hostages. We are sure that Iraq will accept a political solution: Saddam wants a negotiated settlement, but not for it to be interpreted as a defeat for him.

[Garcon] You have seen Saddam Husayn three times, together with Yasir 'Arafat. What does he regard as nonnegotiable?

[Iyad] Two things—first, the regions of Bubiyan and "Saddamiyah"; and second, Amir al-Jabir's return to power.

[Garcon] The PLO is going to and fro between Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Can the Saudis accept such proposals?

[Iyad] Saudi Arabia can accept the first point, but probably not the second. Once Iraq has withdrawn from Kuwait, the return of the ruling Kuwaiti family must at least be discussed by the Arabs. Whatever happens, Kuwait must accept that there are Iraqi interests in Kuwait, just as there are Syrian interests in Lebanon. That is the only way of reaching a solution.

[Garcon] The PLO has sided completely with Iraq, thus destroying what it has always claimed with regard to the Arab regimes—the famous independence of Palestinian decisionmaking....

[Iyad] Nobody is able to understand our position. If we argue solely on the basis of our own interests, we would side with the Gulf, where between 700,000 and 800,000 Palestinians live and which is the source of virtually all our funding.

Contrary to what is being said, we have never been in agreement with the annexation of Kuwait and we have never stopped saying that to the Iraqi president, even before he detained the foreigners in Iraq. But we have refused to condemn Baghdad for two reasons. That would have prevented us from mediating. Those who argued for a condemnation of Iraq at the Cairo Arab summit actually wanted war. However, the consequences of a catastrophic war strike us as more serious than any damage to our image. I have traveled more in 20 days than in the past three years. That is not futile. A war will be tragic. It will be tragic for the United States, but even more for Europe which will pay a higher price. Do not forget that a barrel of oil could reach $60 or $70.

[Garcon] Will terrorism, which Tariq 'Aziz threatened, be one of the consequences of a possible war?

[Iyad] Yes. And it will be the worst.

[Garcon] The PLO is nonetheless likely to pay a very high price for its attitude in this affair.

[Iyad] Do not forget that it is not a conventional inter-Arab dispute. The U.S. intervention and presence have complicated everything. There is not a single Palestinian in Jordan or the occupied territories who can accept that brutal military intervention. This is especially true when there is not and never has been any such international mobilization relating to the UN resolutions on the Palestinian question. So where is the justice? Where is the legality to which you refer? We are not aligned with anybody. But in fact we are being asked to justify acceptance of war. The Palestinian demonstrations in Jordan and in the occupied territories are being used to show that we are aligned with Saddam Husayn. But how could those demonstrations not take place? Anybody who now says, as Saddam does, that force should be used against Israel will be applauded by all the Palestinians in the territories.

[Garcon] Relations between Egypt and the PLO are at their lowest point. Can Egypt be left out of a settlement to the Palestinian question?

[Iyad] No. But we have now decided to publicly and personally blame Husni Mubarak (Egyptian head of state—LIBERATION editor's note) for the anti-Palestinian campaign which is being waged in Egypt. The Egyptian press has accused the Palestinians of being responsible for the plunder which has taken place in Kuwait. The result was not long in coming—some Palestinian stores have been attacked in Cairo. And yet, we had made every effort to bring Egypt back to the Arab world. But what the Egyptians really want is to keep us under control, whereas we have been at war with Syria for eight years to safeguard our independence. We cannot accept that.

PNC's 'Abd-al-Rahman on Consequences of Crisis

PM0609152390 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 5 Sep 90 p 4

[Report on undated interview with Palestine National Council Central Council member As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman by Cordelia Edvardsson: "Yasir 'Arafat Had No Choice"]

[Text] Amman—"When PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat gave his wholehearted support to Iraq at the Arab summit the week after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, he had no choice," Dr. As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is a member of the Palestine National Council [PNC] Central Coouncil, told me.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman is a political scientist and belongs to the independent faction on the Central Council, but he is considered to be close to 'Arafat and his Fatah group. He is aware that the PLO leader's support for Iraq at the Arab summit in the early stages of the crisis has harmed Palestinians in general and the PLO in particular, both economically and politically.

In an interview with SVENSKA DAGBLADET, however, he tried to explain why the PLO voted as it did. Iraq, the PLO, and Libya voted "no" to a resolution which condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and resolved to send an Arab force to Saudi Arabia to protect the country, together with U.S. troops, against a possible Iraqi attack. Some other countries, Jordan among them, abstained. Would it not have been better if the PLO had also abstained?

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman admitted that it might perhaps have been wiser, but said:

"King Husayn of Jordan can afford the luxury of a separate stance. He has a country, a state, and everything that goes with that. He can go home to his country if his position is not appreciated. 'Arafat lives on aircraft; the PLO leadership has nowhere to go. If Iraq demanded that the PLO vote 'no,' then it had to be so."

According to Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman, the PLO's vote is the result of a process that has been going on for a long time. The war in the camps in Lebanon, the catastrophic deterioration in relations between King Husayn of Jordan and the PLO, and Tunisia's cooling interest in the PLO's presence since the Israeli attack in Tunis in 1985 are some of the milestones along the road which brought the PLO into the arms of Saddam Husayn and his Iraq. Little by little Iraq has become the PLO's base.

"Saddam has been the only reliable ally, and it was only he and Saudi Arabia who paid their contributions to the PLO in full and on time," 'Abd-al-Rahman said.

However, it is these contributions, plus those of Kuwait and probably other Gulf states, which will now be frozen. Iraq can hardly afford to pay in the present situation, Kuwait no longer exists, and the rest of the Gulf states accuse the PLO of the worst ingratitude.

The consequences have already begun to show themselves. The West Bank Palestinians and their institutions now have to manage without the approximately $120 million which flowed in from Kuwait and the approximately 300,000 Palestinians who worked there.

East Jerusalem's largest Arab hospital, al-Maqasid, can no longer pay its employees' salaries because 80 percent of the hospital's operating budget came from Kuwait, to mention but one example.

Also, a very large number of families in the West Bank and to some extent also in Gaza lived on money their relatives were sending home from the Gulf states. "If there is war, the Palestinians will be thrown out of the Gulf and we will lose their money," Ilyas Frayj, Bethlehem's well-known mayor, said recently.

In Bethlehem alone, 15,000 of the city's sons have kept their families alive with the aid of the money they earned in Kuwait.

"This situation is a catastrophe for us," said Frayj, one of the Palestinians who believes that Iraq should leave Kuwait to prevent a war, and one of the few Palestinians who dares say so. However, even in the PLO leadership there are said to be those who, according to well-informed sources, are beginning to have qualms.

"But if 'Arafat had allied himself with Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, it would have been the end for him, and perhaps even for the PLO," Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman pointed out.

"The Palestinian masses would never have accepted such a position. They would have seen it as support for the United States, and to them the United States and Israel are the same thing."

However, it is a fact that the Palestinians have now gambled away the political successes which the intifadah, the Palestinian uprising in the occupied areas, and 'Arafat's acceptance of Israel's right to exist had brought them. It is true that the United States broke off the dialogue with the PLO even before the Gulf crisis because 'Arafat refused to condemn a planned Palestinian terrorist action against a holiday beach, but the dialogue could have been resumed. That is hardly likely to happen now. "There never has been any dialogue," Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman said. "It was more like a kind of tiresome courtesy visit. The Americans used the planned attack as an excuse to humor the Israelis and cancel the meetings."

So how does Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman view the disappointment now felt by the Israeli left, which is after all fighting for negotiations with the PLO and a two-state solution? The same applies to other prominent international Jewish leaders who in the past have supported the PLO but who are now turning their backs on the organization.

"They are disappointed with us and we are disappointed with them," he replied. "Once 'Arafat had recognized Israel in December 1988 and renounced all terrorist activity, we had gambled everything we had. We were politically naked. But neither the Israeli left nor world Jewry succeeded in giving us anything in return. We were left naked out in the cold."

The observation that the PLO's change of heart is relatively recent and that it takes time to turn Israeli opinion and create new trust, met with an open admission from Al-Rahman: "We are desperate," he said. "We are not in the mood for rational discussion."

Intifadah Command's 'Victory Call No. 61'

NC3108200090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Aug 90

["Text" of "victory call No. 61" issued by the Palestinian Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, UNLI, in the "state of Palestine" on 31 August]

[Text] Call. Call. Call. No voice should rise above the voice of the intifadah. No voice should rise above the voice of the people of Palestine, the people of the PLO. Issued by the PLO, the UNLI, victory call No. 61:

O, our Palestinian masses of the intifadah; O, masses of our proud Arab nation; O, masses of dignity; O, free people everywhere: For the past 33 months the valiant intifadah has been inflaming the land under the Zionist occupiers. Despite the massive sacrifices and the ferociousness of the Zionist enemy's practices which seek to punish our people, our masses are pressing ahead with their struggle, their resolve undaunted. Our masses are more determined than ever to continue the struggle, regardless of the cost, until victory is ours and until our goals of liberation, return, and independence are realized. We will not turn back in our march despite the fact that the aggression against our Arab land is taking a new turn these days at the hands of the American soldiers and their allies. The Arab peninsula is falling prey to U.S. invasion.

The leader of the new crusade, U.S. President George Bush, has stated quite unambiguously that the goal of the new U.S. aggression is to force Iraq to surrender and submit to the U.S. domination. The U.S. aggression is nothing but an attempt to turn back the clock to the time of [passage indistinct].

Our Palestinian leadership has presented an initiative to stop the aggression and avert a flareup, and is exerting massive efforts to rally support around that initiative. We salute the efforts of our Palestinian leadership to contain the Gulf crisis and resolve it by means of brotherly dialogue and within the Arab framework in a way compatible with the supreme Arab interests.

We in the UNLI support the Palestinian initiative. The initiative welcomes Arab efforts to contain the crisis, including the Iraqi intiative itself. We call on [passage indistinct]. The great dangers inherent in the U.S. aggression against Iraq, for which preparations are now under way, will not be confined to the Middle East region. These dangers necessitate the mobilization of all resources to stop the buildup in the Gulf and bring about the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. occupation forces and other forces under the U.S. command from the region. Arab and international forces, flying the UN flag, should replace these forces, as is proposed by the Palestinian initiative.

UN Security Council Resolution No. 665 has sharpened the claws of the U.S. occupation forces and increased the dangers to the Arab nation and its human, economic, and military resources.

We, in the UNLI, call on all Arab nations, their enlightened national and religious movements, and their regimes who have opposed the U.S. desecration of the holy lands, the birthplace of the great Prophet, to unite in a strong front to confront the impending U.S. aggression and repulse it and to protect the Arab dignity by repulsing this aggression from the sanctified land of Islam.

We also call on the Iraqi Government not to respond to the U.S. provocations or take steps that could be used by the forces of aggression as a pretext for waging a war that aims above all at destroying brotherly Iraq. We also call on that government to respond favorably to the Palestinian initiative and other Arab efforts to contain the crisis, stop the flow of Iraqi blood, and allow time for the Arab people to take action and expel the U.S. occupation from the region.

O, masses of the valiant intifadah, the past few months have taught us that the Zionist enemy has a vicious plan to spread ignorance among our people. Our students, who are about to begin the new school year, have to foil the wicked plans of the enemy by preserving our educational institutions and by acquiring education as a weapon in the struggle and in the building of our independent Palestinian state. The students should not give the Zionist enemy any pretext to close these institutions. The students should show respect for their teachers.

Last year, certain excesses took place against our teachers. Such behavior conflicts with the great spirit of our heroic intifadah. We call on our students, for their own sake and for the sake of the homeland, the people, and future generations, not to repeat such acts. The best way to maintain the spirit of the intifadah and to protect the educational process is for students and teachers to form committees to protect the scientific nature of education. No excesses should be permitted. Disputes, if any arise, should be resolved by brotherly and democratic dialogue.

O, our heroic masses, once again we salute the owners of homes and property who were not carried away by the feverish wave of greed and avarice and did not raise their rents. In this connection, we call on all tenants who have fallen behind in their rent for any reason, to pay these rents immediately. We also warn the owners of real estate, such as shops and homes, who have begun to ask for exorbitant rents and for payment to be made in dollars, dinars, or other currencies, that they should stop their avarice and show concern for their compatriots. We also warn them against imposing additional charges on their tenants.

The recent period has witnessed a growing disregard for the interests of the masses and a corresponding increase in disputes among our people. We call for stopping all disputes and for a return to reason and logic. Committees for good offices can be formed to resolve these disputes. These disputes have become a weapon in the hand of our Zionist enemies and their agents, a weapon that they use to divide us. The enemies are sowing and fanning sedition in a bid to break our ranks. We call on our good people to exert more efforts to resolve all problems and disputes and give the public interest precedence over private and sectarian interests. We also call on our people not to rush to hasty conclusions. It has transpired that agents are frequently the cause of such disputes. Let us listen to the voice of reason, be careful, and stay alert to the plots of an enemy that wishes to divide our ranks and dissipate our energies.

By the same token, the UNLI reiterates its rejection of all inhuman practices against people who are tortured under the pretext of interrogation. Some of these people have been killed or maimed during these interrogations. The UNLI also reiterates that, through its various arms, it will deter anyone who pursues this line of behavior, regardless of his orientation or struggling status.

The occupiers and their agents have recently worn masks when they carry out their aggressive acts against citizens and their properties and against well-known patriots. Thieves and scum wore masks in robberies, looting, and pillage. We renew our call for wearing masks in accordance with earlier calls, particularly call No. 60. We stress that masks should be worn in confrontations with the occupation army and the herds of settlers.

We call on all nationalist powers and the masses to stand up to the thieves and brokers who are taking advantage of the citizens' needs and the absence of courts to encroach on the citizens' properties. They sell these properties and create disputes which destroy all efforts and divert the masses' attention from the confrontation with the enemies.

The UNLI appeals to the brothers in the Democratic Front to resort to reason and logic, place the homeland's interests above any other consideration, and resolve their differences in a responsible spirit through a brotherly democratic dialogue. Only this will maintain their unity and their national role and protect the principles observed in the Front's central committee's resolutions issued at its February 1990 session.

O our daring masses: We are calling on you to implement the following struggle program: Regard the days of September as days of effective nationalist struggle against the Zionist occupation and the U.S. invasion of the holy places, during which flags will be hoisted, slogans raised, and demonstrations conducted to denounce the invasion and the occupation. All Fridays are to be observed as special days of protest against the Zionist occupation and its oppressive tools. The masses will head for prayers in the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque, from where they will march in huge demonstrations against the occupation. The period between 3 and 5 September will be observed as days of pride on which the intifadah completes its 1,000th day. On these days, shops will open their doors until 1900, marches and celebrations will be held, Palestinian flags will be hoisted, national dress will be worn, and the walls will be filled with unified slogans which stress that the intifadah will continue until the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. The period between 4 and 9 September will be observed as a general strike to mark the 34th month of the intifadah. The period between 5 and 15 September will mark the start of winter time. The clock will be put back one hour. On 15 September, all shops will remain open until 1800. Between 6 and 16 September, a general strike will be observed to mark the eighth anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres. The period between 7 and 17 September will be observed as days of solidarity with our heroes who are being detained in the Zionist prisons. On these days, sit-ins will be staged to raise slogans calling for the closure of these Nazi prisons and for restoring the freedom of our detained heroes. The period between 20 through 25 September will be observed as days of solidarity with the families of the martyrs, the wounded, and the detained. Visits to these families will be organized. The committees for solidarity with the families of the detainees will establish solidarity funds with these families. Between 9 and 26 September, a general strike will be observed in solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people against the U.S. invasion of the Arab lands. The period between 27 and 30 September will be observed as days of struggle on which Palestinian flags will be hoisted in expression of our insistence on the national Palestinian identity and to celebrate the 1,000th day of the intifadah. National dress will be worn on these days.

Egypt

Kuwaiti Deposits 'Lost'; Bodies Arrive From Iraq

JN0609193790 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Sep 90 pp 1, 20

[Text] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD has learned from Egyptian security sources that the bodies of Egyptians who had been working in Iraq have again begun arriving in Cairo. The closure of Iraqi airspace had caused a temporary suspension in the airlift of Egyptian bodies. Fourteen corpses arrived recently, having been transported overland to Jordan and then flown to Cairo aboard flights of Gulf Air, Royal Jordanian, and Libyan Airways.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that autopsies indicated these deaths were caused mostly by gunfire. The overland transport fees to Jordan were said by an escort to be approximately 2,000 Jordanian dinars for each body. Some Egyptians have had to bury relatives in Iraq because of the prohibitive costs.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Government has refused to receive a committee which Egypt proposed be established by the Arab League to look into the rights of Egyptian workers with funds at banks in Kuwait and Iraq.

The Arab League Secretariat had received official requests from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Manpower that the proposed committee have access to documents regarding Egyptian deposits in Kuwaiti banks.

Deposits in Kuwaiti banks made by 150,000 Egyptians worth 10 billion [currency not specified] were earlier reported to have been lost. Furthermore, a majority of the returnees were further said to be carrying no deposit receipts or account numbers. Most of such documents were reportedly seized by Iraqi troops invading Kuwait.

Commentary Views Saddam's, Western Strategies

NC0109145090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Commentary by Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb: "Saddam Husayn Exploits International Forces for his own Protection."]

[Text] It is noteworthy that since he snatched Kuwait, President Saddam Husayn has been addressing the West in general, and the United States in particular. This Iraqi inclination toward the West is not a coincidence, nor driven by the requirements of the situation. It is a basic part of the Iraqi strategy for the usurpation of Kuwait.

When President Saddam Husayn drew up his Hitlerian scheme to invade Kuwait, he based his calculations on the following concept: First, the Arab world can confront the Iraqi invasion only with condemnation, this being the utmost it can offer to Kuwait, particularly as President Saddam Husayn had made prior arrangements with some Arab countries to support him, in one way or another, in order to give the impression to Arab and international public opinion that the Arabs do not agree on one view regarding the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

Second, the considerable size of the Iraqi force invading Kuwait, the mobilization of this force near the Saudi border, and the direct and indirect Iraqi threats to Saudi Arabia were bound to drive the Saudi leadership to request immediate U.S. assistance to defend the kingdom against a possible Iraqi aggression on its territory or on the oil-rich al-Rumaylah area.

Third, during the time it takes for the U.S. forces to become large enough to perform an effective military role, Saddam intends to exploit their presence. He has alerted Islamic groups that imminent dangers threaten the holy places and that it is every Muslim's duty to hasten to defend his sanctities against foreign invasion.

Fourth, President Saddam Husayn knew very well that the Islamic groups would respond to his call in one fashion or another and exercise one-upmanship regarding the foreign presence and consider it a principal issue, not out of love for Saddam—who they know very well is very far removed from any Islamic understanding—but in order to search for a future political role for themselves. The issues they raise are immaterial issues that provoke more controversy than agreement. For this reason, linking the Islamic groups with the slogans calling for the return of foreign forces to their countries is bound to raise a sensational issue and open the door to these groups to play a role in the Arab world.

Fifth, he has sought to place terrorist groups and organizations under Iraqi control to exploit them in threatening to provoke a clash with the United States and the Arab world. In this context, President Saddam Husayn has grievously harmed the Palestinian cause by dragging the PLO onto his side and driving it to support him. The world will now maintain that the PLO has relinquished its commitment to renouncing terrorism.

These are some of the foundations on which President Saddam Husayn built his strategy when he compelled Saudi Arabia to request U.S. assistance to defend itself following Iraqi threats. At the same time he exploited the U.S. presence in the region as a shield to protect himself. He realizes that these forces cannot strike a blow against him as quickly as some people imagine, because U.S. and other Western countries will think a thousand times before confronting the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait by force of arms.

U.S. calculations are based on the following principles: First, the United States does not want to be involved in a long battle that will give time for sections of popular Arab and Islamic masses to support Saddam Husayn.

Second, the international forces are operating on Arab territories that are very far from their original bases. The Arab mood is variable—what we condemn today, we will support tomorrow.

Third, the international forces which have arrived in the region are now perfectly capable of defending the entire Gulf region and securing Western oil interests.

Fourth, under the aegis of international detente, matters must be arranged with great political perspicacity so that strategic objectives may be attained without recourse to violence and in accordance with the concept of the balance of interests, not force. Force today is not a weapon.

When we compare Saddam Husayn's strategy with Western assessments, we will discover that the Iraqi president is exploiting all these assessments in order to push through a peaceful settlement within the framework of other settlements. He does not care who these settlements will be with or against. All that concerns him is to swallow up Kuwait.

In return Iraq is willing, as Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz stated, to support Saudi Arabia if it annexes Qatar—because Qatar has no political presence. If we carefully read Saddam Husayn's first initiative in which he spoke of the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza and the departure of Syria from Lebanon, we will realize that the Iraqi president is implying the possibility of Israel's keeping the West Bank and Gaza and Syria's seizure of Lebanon in return for Iraq's keeping Kuwait. All these areas, as we know, have historical, political, and border problems. Hence we remark that President Saddam exploited the period between the adoption of the UN Security Council resolutions and the call for foreign forces to come to the Gulf to begin long dialogues with the West: one about the hostages, another about the embassies, and still another to propose ambiguous solutions.

As foreign military concentrations increase and talk of peace initiatives continues, Saddam Husayn wants the world to forget the Kuwaiti issue completely in return for attaining a peaceful settlement and preventing the region from turning into an erupting volcano that will cause severe harm to world economy.

For these reasons, each party is exercizing the utmost restraint not to promote a clash or create a new justification for military action. Saddam is wagering that the United States will hesitate to strike a blow against Iraq in order not to lose its credibility as an ally of the Arabs. Thus, Saddam Husayn turned the foreign forces, to whom he himself opened the door to reach the region, into a bargaining chip to use. He hopes that perhaps international and Arab political initiatives, or even concessions permitting the redrawing of the region's map, will enable him to escape the trap.

Vis-a-vis the political chess game in the Gulf, the Arab forces which unreservedly condemned the Iraqi invasion will keep the Kuwaiti issue a hot issue that is not open to bargaining. This demonstrates the burden shouldered by those Arab forces which Iraq is seeking to put on the list of the enemies of Arabism.

Says Iraq 'Playing for Time'

NC0209152990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Commentary by Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb: "Iraq Is Playing for Time"]

[Text] After two days of talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar declared that his talks with the Iraqi minister had been disappointing. There is no doubt that these few words express a great deal of what the UN secretary general feels. As a matter of fact, Iraq is playing for time in the hope that with each passing day, the international community's attention will be diverted from the basic issue that created the situation approximately one month ago. The Iraqi leadership has for some time followed the method of making overtures or creating new situations. At the outset, Saddam Husayn put forward what he termed a peace initiative in which he proposed that the Israeli forces withdraw from the occupied Arab territory and Syria withdraw from Lebanon so that Iraq would consider a discussion of the Kuwait issue within an Arab framework. After the entire world refused to even consider this strange and contradictory proposal, President Saddam then embarked on a peace initiative with Iran in which he declared his acceptance of the Algier's agreement of 1975, an agreement which Iraq had earlier rejected and entered a war over in 1980. Despite all Iraq's concessions to Iran, this Iraqi initiative did little to promote the Iraqi stance, because Iran was the only party to benefit.

Saddam Husayn then raised the issue of the foreign hostages, whom he used as a human shield against any foreign intervention in Iraq. In the wake of the humanitarian and international repercussions of this issue and several mediation efforts, the Iraqi leadership began to release a number of women, children, and sick people in a bid to win world public opinion. Meanwhile, Iraq also raised the issue of the foreign embassies in Kuwait. It considered the staff at all foreign embassies that refused to close down and move to Baghdad as ordinary citizens without diplomatic immunity. Persisting in tormenting those who refused to comply with the Iraqi decision, the Iraqis cut off water and electricity to the embassies, and they were surrounded by soldiers. Undoubtedly, all these ploys preoccupied the world for a time. Saddam's goal was to divert world attention from the basic issue of the invasion and annexation of Kuwait. Saddam thought that opening discussions and dialogue with international parties on several other issues could make people forget the issue of Kuwait. In fact, the countries that decided to form a multinational force to implement the economic boycott resolutions found that Saddam Husayn's maneuvers gave them a golden opportunity to build up the forces capable of implementing the Security Council resolutions. Thus the world did not forgot the issue of Kuwait, as Saddam had hoped. Others have played for time as he has done.

What we want to emphasize and make clear to Arab public opinion is that Iraq's current ploy cannot fool anyone, particularly as Iraq has asserted and continues to assert that Kuwait is an indivisible part of Iraqi territory, a part returned to the whole or a branch restored to the root, as the Iraqi decision on the annexation of Kuwait put it. Thus, world and Arab public opinion remembers that the Kuwaiti issue is the main issue and will not allow any maneuver to divert attention from it, because this would represent a triumph of evil and the repudiation of all accepted international laws and norms.

For Perez de Cuellar to declare after his talks with the Iraqi foreign minister that the talks were disappointing, this means that he came to Amman for a dialogue with the Iraqi minister to avert an explosion in the region as a result of Iraqi excesses. He found out that the Iraqi officials had no intention of accepting any positive stand regarding withdrawal from Kuwait. The prominent international figure has shown the world the petrified Iraqi stand that refuses to heed the voice of reason. This shows that the Iraqi party is not serious in any talk about a settlement and does not realize the dimensions of the dangers surrounding the region.

We believe that when President Mubarak repeated his warnings to the Iraqi leadership about the dangers of the occupation of Kuwait, he—as a military man who experienced war and fought and suffered in battles—did so in full knowledge of the extent of the hazards, destruction, and devastation that wars inflict on mankind. However, Saddam Husayn, given his adventurous nature, turned a deaf ear to sincere warnings. Nonetheless, it was necessary to repeat the warning because Iraq, which was afflicted by the war with Iran for eight years and lost approximately 1 million dead, wounded, and maimed, cannot tolerate further mad adventures that would wreak devastation not only on the Iraqi people, but on the entire Arab nation. Saddam Husayn's narrow-minded calculations have opened the gates of hell to a conflagration in the entire region. By ignoring the appeals of sincere people and peace initiatives, he has placed the future of all Arabs in the hands of fate.

Editor Links Hashemite-Saudi Rivalry to Crisis

NC0309093390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—Mahfuz al-Ansari, chief editor of the AL-JUMHURIYAH, stresses that the actions and stands of King Husayn of Jordan indicate that he is governed by his ambition to revive the Hashemites' hope of imposing their control on Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Syria and to achieve the dream of his grandfather al-Sharif Husayn of establishing a great Arab state.

In an article titled "Husayn King of Iraq...The Secrets of the Jordanian Rejection," al-Ansari says that King Husayn is trying to avenge the Hashemites for Saudi acts. The Saudis, according to the king, have usurped the rights of al-Sharif Husayn, the shaykh and imam of the Hashemites. Al-Ansari notes that the history of Jordanian-Saudi relations has always fluctuated between high and low points and between understanding and tension. The consistent factor in these relations has always been "mistrust." There have been times of understanding and times of estrangement and anger.

Al-Ansari adds that the latest attempt by King Husayn to revive the hopes of the Hashemites has been his addition of a new sharif to the family, whether through claims of blood relationship or through twisting historical facts. Thus, Saddam Husayn has appeared as a new sharif from the people of the house upon whom rests the historic responsibility of returning the rights to their owners, who are the sharifs and descendants of the Prophet. In view of the power he yields, Saddam Husayn shoulders the burden of revenge for the Hashemites against the Saudis.

Al-Ansari says that with his dexterity and cunning King Husayn has been able to sell this idea to an ambitious person, whose knowledge of history and its rules does not exceed his limited knowledge of geostrategy, its laws, controls, and limitations. Al-Ansari said that this appeared strongly during the Gulf war [between Iraq and Iran], in which King Husayn declared himself a soldier of Saddam. He also put his army in a state of general mobilization and in a state of war against the Persian enemy. According to al-Ansari, King Husayn actually wanted this war to finish off Saddam Husayn and his ambitions so that King Husayn would be acceptable to the Iraqi people, who were once ruled by his cousin Faysal and the regent 'Abd al-Ilah. This would be a step toward the achievement of the King's dream.

Al-Ansari notes that following the Gulf crisis [between Iraq and Iran] Saddam Husayn became even stronger, but King Husayn did not despair. Talks began between the old Hashemite "King Husayn" and the new Hashemite "Saddam Husayn." Saddam recently began rehabilitating the Hashemite Dynasty which was overthrown by the July 1958 revolution in Iraq. Statues were erected for King Faysal and his palaces were renovated. Talk flourished about the Hashemites and their glories. Saddam Husayn then declared hismelf a Hashemite sharif.

Al-Ansari stresses that King Husayn's calculations, as well as all international calculations, say that the crisis in which Saddam has involved himself will finish him and that he cannot endure whether he withdraws from Kuwait or not.

According to al-Ansari, whether these calculations are correct or whether they are proved by political and military events, what is certain is that King Husayn—in his acts, in his defense of the people of Iraq, and his initiatives—is preparing the stage to share the booty following the end of operations in all their military and political forms.

Al-Ansari says that Saddam Husayn will not be a partner in this booty. The Hashemite King Husayn will be proclaimed King of Iraq. And Jordan, whether as an alternative homeland or a Hashemite kingdom, will revert to other inheritors, who may be Crown Prince Hasan or the Palestinians.

Klibi Resignation Seen as Part of 'Conspiracy'

NC0509112090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0619 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—[passage omitted] Writing under the title: "Klibi's Resignation is a Continuation of the Fragmentation Conspiracy," AL-JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari affirmed that the resignation of Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi is part of the "conspiracy" against the Arab world, countries, peoples, and existence which began with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

He added that apparently the Iraqi president and his disciples among the Arab countries and leaders are determined to demolish the Arab system and its institutions at the same time that they are destroying the Arab entity and wealth, indeed the Arab individual himself.

He noted that Chedli Klibi was Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz' partner in a plot to obstruct the passage of a resolution to transfer the Arab League headquarters to its original site in Cairo, as the Arab League Charter states, as well as being responsible for the devious wording of the resolution. [passage omitted]

Mahfuz al-Ansari said that Chedli Klibi's resignation before the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers on 10 September and before the regular meeting of the Arab League Council before the end of this month, is the "remainder of the merchandise" he is delivering and whose price he received in advance. [passage omitted]

The AL-JUMHURIYAH chief editor pointed out that, according to Saddam's and his followers' calculations, the resignation will demolish the Arab League or paralyze it and consequently obstruct Arab decisions or render them illegitimate. He declares: For this reason I believe that the Arabs must expand their activity and conduct more intense contacts with all parties, both those who are hesitant and those who are involved, because the Arab situation and entity are threatened.

Al-Ansari said that the door is still open for an Arab action that will save Saddam and the region from destruction and at the same time salvage legitimacy. He noted that there can be no reward for an aggressor, but we must, nevertheless, deter this aggressor and protect him and the nation from his own evil. He concluded by calling on the Arab countries to cooperate, talk, and together seek to find a means that will safeguard the nation's entity and legitimacy.

Columnist Says King Husayn's Mission 'Failed'

JN0609112290 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Sep 90 p 5

["A Word of Love" Column, by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] Amidst the events, some important points might be ignored because we sometimes forget, or choose to forget, because we, like all Arabs, are an emotional people. We are overcome by emotions and ignore some facts. For example, it is now being said that there is danger arising from the presence of the U.S. forces in the Gulf. This is correct. Egypt was the first to warn against this danger. I hope that Egyptian television will air these particular sentences of President Husani Mubarak's first news conference in which he stressed this danger, warned against it, and called for an Arab summit that would assume the responsibility of issuing an Arab resolution in order to avoid the foreign presence.

Some people are trying to falsify the facts, crying out against the U.S. forces' presence and calling for their evacuation when, in fact, their presence is the result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, to which they were not a party. If the reason for their presence is repudiated and Iraq withdraws from Kuwait with sufficient guarantees that it will not invade it again, then these forces will have no more reason to stay. However, evacuating these forces now without such guarantees means allowing Saddam Husayn to invade Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf states.

The United States stresses that its forces were dispatched to defend Saudi Arabia upon Saudi Arabia's request and that it is ready to depart if Saudi Arabia requests it to do so. Moreover, it is working in full coordination with Saudi Arabia, or rather Saudi Arabia has stipulated that the United States not attack any Arab land from its bases in Saudi Arabia.

This is the first point. The second point is that there are people calling for an Arab solution from within the Arab fold. Why did these people let the opportunity at the Arab summit, which was held for the sake of reaching an Arab solution prior to the outbreak of the catastrophe, go by? Despite this, they try to falsify facts and persist in their mistakes. With the solutions they propose, they would merely honor and reward the aggressor, give the rightful owner a quarter of his rights, and impose conditions and restrictions on the rightful owner. This is even worse than British, French, and Italian colonialism, which withdrew with no conditions and left the land to its owners.

Moreover, those who are proposing initiatives are not offering a pledge of withdrawal from Saddam Husayn. Not even a pledge. King Husayn went to Washington and London carrying Saddam's mail and proposing solutions. They asked him: Do you carry a pledge from Saddam? He said: No. His mission failed because it lacked the essential factors. The European Community consented to a complete and unconditional withdrawal and the return of the legitimate government. The world reached a consensus on this, except for some Arabs. Complete disgrace to those Arabs who have submitted to or flattered Saddam.

A third point: They say Saddam did no more than annex territory that was historically his. This is another fallacy. If we implemented the same principle, we would have taken half of Libya and parts of Sudan as far as Masawa and Harrar. It is a more serious fallacy when they say that Saddam is a hero of Arabism and Islam. Is it an Arab knight's ethics to use women and children as shields? Is it an Islamic characteristic that the invader pillage, plunder, sabotage, and usurp? Abu-Bakr [one of the four caliphs] instructed his soldiers not to cut a tree; burn a palm tree; fight a child, old man, or woman; or attack priests' shrines or their crosses. If you acknowledge Abu-Bakr's commandment, you will understand what Saddam's crime has done to the Muslim's image. God will champion his religion and liquidate the infidels. Amen.

Crude Oil Prices Increase $3.50 per Barrel

NC0509151390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—Egypt has decided to increase the prices of its oil crude by $3.50 as of today, Wednesday. Hammad Ayyub, deputy chairman of the Egyptian Petroleum Authority for Foreign Trade, announced this, adding that the pricing committee held a meeting today to discuss the world oil market and prices. He said the new prices will be as follows: Khalij al-Zayt and Ra's al-Bihar crude $29.30 per barrel; Suez Gulf crude $ 29.00 per barrel; Bala'im crude $ 28.15 per barrel; Badran crude $ 27.00 per barrel; and, Gharib crude $ 26.70 per barrel.

Morocco

Nation Reportedly Withdraws Postponement Request

NC0609194790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1929 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Tunis, 6 Sep (MENA)—A MENA correspondent has learned that Morocco has withdrawn the memorandum it had sent to the Arab League General Secretariat requesting the postponement of the upcoming emergency session of the Arab League Ministerial Council in Cairo on 10 September.

The Moroccan measure was taken following news that the legal quorum required for the session has been secured.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Criticizes Western Actions in Crisis

EA0609214290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1427 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 6 September (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has stated that the huge Western buildup in the Arab region would lead to the internationalization of the Gulf crisis and [words indistinct] its local elements to draw the region into a confrontation between international forces and Arab ones. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, who was addressing members of the National Dialogue Conference on the political system today, further said the buildup could result in (?pretexts aimed at) an internationalization of energy resources, removing them from their Arab owners, which would lead to an internationalization of the Arabs' destiny [word indistinct]; their right to arrange their own affairs, relations, and political positions.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar reiterated Sudan's rejection of this Western military buildup in the area, which, he said, was likely to increase tension and the possibility of confrontation. He stressed the [words indistinct] and said that we reject the foreign presence in the sanctuary of the holy Islamic lands and that Sudan would not accept (?under any circumstances) making this (?imposed) presence a reason for condemning an Arab side or to sever (?relations) with that side. This is for the sake of maintaining the stock of the Arab-Islamic brethren, preserving the relations [word indistinct] and for the sake of [word indistinct] cooperation in order to transcend the current crisis.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir pointed out that Sudan had hoped that the emergency Arab summit convened in Cairo would have enabled the Arabs to emerge with a minimal consensus which in turn, would have allowed them to make some arrangements and guarantees to solve the problem existing between Iraq and Kuwait which would defend every Arab country, thus avoiding the use of foreign buildups. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. 'Umar pointed out that the adverse effects on Sudan include the rise in oil prices and the return of many Sudanese who were working in the state of Kuwait. Furthermore, many development projects which were financed by some Arab funds will stumble. He announced that the rise in oil prices would mean a loss of approximately 2,000 million Sudanese pounds per year, pointing out that these effects will cast a negative shadow on the budget by draining the social services budget or by covering the deficit by means of borrowing from the banking system, (?both of which) will have (?negative) repercussions on the [word indistinct] and the citizens. [passage omitted]

To Launch 'Arab Initiative' in Gulf

EA0609174590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has confirmed that Sudan's next move toward solving the Gulf crisis peacefully will be directed at the Gulf states to launch an Arab initiative to solve the crisis. His excellency also reaffirmed Sudan's initiative that the solution to the crisis should be an Arab one. He said efforts are still continuing to come up with an initiative which different parties accept. Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir described Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's initiative as one which included positive articles and embraced all the [word indistinct]. His excellency made these statements after returning to Khartoum on 5 September from the second UN conference of the less developed countries in Paris.

University Closed After 'Increased Disorder'

EA0609184590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Professor Abidin Muhammad 'Ali Salih, acting vice-chancellor of Khartoum University, issued a statement yesterday explaining that he has held consultations with the deans of various faculties of the university concerning the critical situation witnessed recently by Khartoum University involving increased disorder among the students due to differences in viewpoints on the future of their board and lodging.

Following these consultations, and fearing an escalation of the situation that might endanger life and property, both he and the Khartoum University administration have decided to close the university indefinitely, effective yesterday, Wednesday, and send the students home to their families immediately.

Kuwait

Swiss Official Says Supplies Scarce at Embassy

LD0709160990 Bern International Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] The Swiss Foreign Ministry says the situation at the Swiss Embassy in Kuwait is giving cause for concern as water and other provisions are beginning to run out. The head of the ministry's Gulf Crisis Unit, Hans Rudolf Hoffmann, told a news conference that Switzerland had not ruled out the possibility of the Swiss charge d'affaires and his assistant leaving the embassy for Baghdad. However, he said Switzerland would await the position of the European Community before taking any decision on the issue. Mr Hoffmann said that any move to evacuate the Kuwait embassy did not mean that it would be closed or signify recognition of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

Amir Receives Bahraini Leader's Message

LD0609204290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Sept, SPA—The amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, received a message from His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, relating to continuous contacts and consultations between the two states in order to stand together with a view to repelling the Iraqi invader forces from Kuwait.

WAKH reported that the Bahraini foreign minister, Shaykh Muhammad Mubarak Al Khalifah, handed the message to his highness the amir of Kuwait when he met with him.

Ministers Report on Resistance Operations

NC0209182290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah said today that the Kuwaiti forces shot down 13 Iraqi aircraft and 2 fighter planes during the first hours of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shakyh Nawwaf al-Ahmad has said that the Kuwaiti resistance fighters have killed between 150 and 200 Iraqi soldiers since the start of the invasion on 2 August.

Amir Al-Sabah Calls on Citizens To Persevere

LD0609003490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2210 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Excerpts] al-Ta'if, 5 Sept (SPA)—His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait, last night addressed the Kuwaiti people one and a half months after the start of the tyrannical Iraqi occupation of Kuwaiti territory. His highness said: "With its oppressive troops, Iraq defied all international charters and norms fixed in the conscience of the world. It also discarded, with its arrogance and delusion, all the rules regulating international legitimacy that the world is anxious to preserve and defend, particularly at a time when the states of the world are endeavoring to bring about peace and cooperation and avoid the tragedy of wars."

His highness the amir also pointed out that "the Iraqi invasion of Kuwaiti territory has led to condemnation and sharp criticism from all the states of the world and from regional and international organizations, be they official or popular. It also led to demands for the immediate withdrawal of the invading Iraqi troops to enable the legitimate rulers to exercise their prerogatives as they did prior to the invasion and without restriction or condition. All this is clear and real evidence that the world cannot accept the aggression of the Iraqi regime against Kuwait and the ensuing negative results, the effects of which have been reflected at the Arab, Islamic, and international levels."

His highness then lauded the steadfastness of the Kuwaiti people and said: "What makes one happy and very proud is that I am addressing you today while news of your steadfastness is echoing throughout the world, affirming your refusal to cooperate in any way with the troops of occupation, despite their threats and inducements."

He noted that the tyrant enemy has failed to show the world a single shred of evidence proving that there are sons of Kuwait who are cooperating with him. This has caused his claims and excuses to invade Kuwait to go with the wind and has exposed the truth of his aggressive action.

The amir of Kuwait urged the Kuwaiti people to persevere. [passage omitted]

His highness spoke to the sons of the Kuwaiti people inside Kuwait. He said: You who are steadfast, patient, and stationed inside Kuwait; you who preferred to embrace the soil of Kuwait and its history with your eyes and your hearts and who preferred to remain in Kuwait, I address you while faith fills my heart and say to you that your steadfastness against the forces of injustice, tyranny, and aggression will, with God's help, remove the dark wind that destroyed the security of Kuwait and its stability, so that Kuwait may return to what it used to be, God willing, a place of security, stability, and peace. Darkness, no matter how long it can last, will not obscure the truth, which will emerge white and shining.

He also spoke to the Kuwaiti people outside Kuwait: He said, you, who because of the grave consequences are outside Kuwait, your responsibility is not less than the responsibility of your brothers at home.

He called on them to prove to the world that they are with their brothers in Kuwait and he said that they should support them with their efforts and available potential, and that they must back their steadfastness to enable them to realize victory, God willing. [passage omitted]

At the same time, he urged the Kuwaiti people to represent Kuwait in the manner worthy of Kuwait, and that they must respect the traditions, laws, and conventions of the states where they are living.

He also urged them to be united in word and deed and in their endeavors to liberate the soil of the homeland from the filth of the invaders. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Fahd, Crown Prince Split Over Forces Denied

LD0509010690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0005 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Sep (SPA)—A responsible source denied in a statement to SPA statements attributed to His Royal Highness Amir Abdullah Bin 'Abd-al-Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, by the weekly AL-USB'U AL-'ARABI on 30 August 1990 concerning the presence of U.S. forces in the Kingdom. The source said that the report was a mere fabrication and was totally groundless, like the report published by AL-YAMAN AL-SA'ID newspaper citing so-called informed sources, to the effect that there is a dispute between the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, and His Royal Highness Amir Abdullah Bin 'Abd-al-Aziz, concerning the entry of U.S. forces into the Kingdom. The source concluded his statement by saying "the Kingdom strongly refutes these despicable and fabricated reports, and wants to confirm that the strength of the relations between the Saudi royal family and the loyal Saudi people shall not be harmed by these base schemes which expose the hatred of their sources and their total ignorance of the cohesion between the officials and people of the Kingdom in a solid tie of love and loyalty."

King Fahd Receives Kuwaiti Prime Minister

LD3108203390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1936 GMT 31 Aug 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message"]

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques—may God protect him—received in his office at al-Salam Palace His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The meeting was attended by Defense Miniser Shaykh Nawwa al-Ahmad, and Dr. 'Abdallah al-Sederi, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the State of Kuwait.

Saddam Assassination Plot Involvement Denied

LD0309155590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1513 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Sep (SPA)—In response to allegations by NEWSWEEK magazine issued today, Monday, 3 September 1990, stating that the Kingdom is preparing to hand out financial aid to a secret operation plotted by Western intelligence to topple the Iraqi president, and that the funds are to be handed over by the Saudi ambassador to Washington, an official source told SPA today that "this news is totally fabricated and is absolutely false."

News Conference by Saudi Joint Forces Commander

PM0509113190 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 29 Aug 90 pp 6-7

[News conference by His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant General Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of joint forces in Saudi Arabia; on 27 August; place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Question] What are the possibilities which could result from the present situation?

[Prince Khalid] As a military man, I must expect all possibilities and take account of the worst of these possibilities. All I can say is that we are ready to secure the kingdom's safety and protect its people and territory against any aggression.

[Question] But the Iraqis claim they have mighty ground and air forces and that they have great combat experience!

[Prince Khalid] (Smiling and confidently) Let them say what they want and believe whatever they want. Wars and combat capability are not judged by numbers or quantity of equipment but, instead, by two important foundations: First, the objective for which the fighter is fighting. And we do not believe that the Iraqi soldiers are willing to kill their brothers and neighbors who supported them. And because the Iraqi regime is fully aware of this fact, it pushed them into Kuwait without their knowledge. It forced them to get involved in an adventure that conflicts with their convictions and morals. And I do not think they will agree to achieve their leadership's unjustified ambitions, except under threats and terror. And this means that they will fight without an aim and without high morale.

Whereas Saudi fighters are at their utmost alert and preparedness because they will not accept the seizure of their territory, the degradation of their dignity, or their kinfolk and brothers' being made homeless. Thus they will fight with every force, belief, determination, and masculinity.

Second, the Iraq-Iran war was a conventional war in terms of equipment, training, preparedness, and armament. But what the Iraqi president does not know about the Saudi Army, its belief, training, strength, and ability to deal with the latest types of military technology, could be a shock to him. That is, if he realizes that we have things he does not have, and that our total supremacy in the air, on land, and at sea can inflict a crushing blow on him, would he venture this time. [passage omitted]

[Question] Your Highness, so how do you see a future solution?

[Prince Khalid] This question should be addressed to the people of politics. They know more than I do in that regard. However, I see that Saddam Husayn has pushed himself into a dark tunnel and he, before anyone else, must consider how to extricate himself. As for us, we believe that his withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of its legitimacy, and the elimination of the subsequent results of his invasion of it are the foundations for a solution.

This is because Saddam Husayn has failed to annihilate the ruling family in Kuwait and to polarize the opposition to form a national government to back his ambitions. He has also failed to avert Arab and world reaction, which has besieged him and could destroy him, his regime, and his oppressed people. He also failed to assess the Saudi position, as he wanted to continue to wreak havoc in the region and attack our country. He did not, as I said previously, expect the wise Saudi leadership to take a swift decision to seek backing from brothers and friends.

His only option is to turn to reason and logic, leave Kuwait alone, and refrain from his strange practices against the world's states and peoples.

[Question] Your Highness, do you expect a threat from other quarters?

[Prince Khalid] I told you that decisionmakers in this country are aware of what is happening around them, and they are pained by it. But I can assure you that we are on a level of alert and preparedness of which we are proud.

[Question] Your Highness, what would you say to the spiteful Iraqi regime's mouthpieces which say things about the foreign forces' presence in the Kingdom contrary to what we and the world know?

[Prince Khalid] I would like to express once again my utmost appreciation for the fraternal Arab and friendly states' response to our request and for their dispatch of forces to our country to back our Armed Forces in confronting oppression.

At the same time I say that these forces arrived following the occupation of a neighbor state and in view of the constant threat to the Kingdom's security and independence. Their arrival at the right time has actually destroyed a major part of Saddam Husayn's dreams and ambitions.

So the continuation of their stay depends on the continuation of the conditions which led to our seeking their support. And once the reasons for this are eliminated, the Kingdom will be the one to decide whatever is right with regard to them, that is, in the light of its interests, its assessment of the situation, and its eagerness to secure the safety of its territory and people. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Addresses 'Peninsula Shield'

LD0609010990 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Amir Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, arrived at 2100 on Thursday, 5 September, at the airport of King Khalid Military City in the northern region. [passage omitted]

On Friday morning, His Royal Highness Amir Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and their royal highnesses the amirs visited the Northern Region Command, where all heard a detailed briefing on the preparations of the forces in the region. From there, His Royal Highness Amir Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, accompanied by Lieutenant General Khalid Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces, and their royal highnesses the amirs headed for the camps of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz's 20th Brigade and the forces of the Peninsula Shield. [passage omitted]

Then His Royal Highness delivered the following speech:

[Begin Sultan recording] Brothers and colleagues, men of the Peninsula Shield, peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you:

How difficult it is for us to meet today, when one of the sister founding states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and a participant in building this force was exposed to a treacherous aggression aimed against its leadership and citizens, spreading corruption in its land, and violating honor and caused death. [passage omitted]

We meet today while the skies of the Gulf are clouded with the results of that ugly crime, which put an end to Kuwait's independence, rendered its proud people homeless, and threatened the security of the people's of the region who, after God, pin on you and your honorable mujahidin brothers and the loyal friends, their hope of repelling the aggression and returning the Kuwaitis to their homeland with raised heads under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah and his national government. [applause]

It pains my soul to see the Iraqi Army, whom we stood by for eight difficult years, supporting it and supplying it with weapons and money, and developing its capabilities—rather, despite the risks, we threw all our political, material, and moral weight behind it, at international gatherings to rescue it from destruction, disintegration, and collapse under the gravity of blows—it pains us to see it turning from a shield defending the Arab nation into a sharp sword cutting wombs, destroying the sanctity of fraternity, and shatterng the ties of neighborliness and kinship. It destroyed the noble sentiments of souls when it became a tool of destruction and oppression in the hands of an opportunist and heedless leadership, which turned its back on all values and exhausted its people in a fierce war that destroyed everything and burdened Iraq with debts, after it had been one of the richest Arab countries, for no other objective than the satisfaction of a personal arrogance that was not satisifed with the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi martyrs who fell for no objective or justification; thus he [Saddam] returned to his adventures, and only God knows how many souls they will harvest if the Iraqi leadership persists in its offense, pomposity, aggression, and intransigence and does not withdraw its army from sister

Kuwait and does not stop displaying its forces to terrorize and blackmail its sisters and neighbors.

The aggression against sister Kuwait and the concentrations of forces and Iraqi military moves threatening the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not dissuade us from upholding our principles and fulfilling our commitments in the Gulf; rather they have redoubled our previous convictions concerning the need to consolidate and widen the structures of military cooperation among our states so that we may not be taken by surprise once again and so that the Arab Gulf states may have a military force that deters aggression, imposes peace, and brings the heedless adventurers to their senses.

I would like you to know while you are making this courageous stand that you are not alone; rather, the people of the Arab and Islamic nations stand by you; they sent their soldiers to join you in the same trench to repel the aggression and awaken the leadership of Iraq from its foolish dreams, rashness, and recklessness. The schemes of the Iraqi leadership, those that were implemented until now and those that are still in the files, [word indistinct] heroism and false claims, have been aborted. Its true face full of hatred, which has forgotten our hands and noble stands, has been exposed. It exploited the Gulf states' preoccupation with the Palestinian intifadah and the cracks in Lebanon to stab us in the back amid the happiness at the calm situation in the Gulf, in a premeditated treachery and deviousness difficult to believe or imagine, and rejected by religion and gallantry.

But deviousness rebounds on those who practice it. Here is the prosperity of Iraq turning into misery, and here is the Iraqi leadership feeling its isolation, stumbling in its decisions, and swaying under the economic blockade and political and military pressures. It will not be long, God willing, before matters return to the way they used to be, the Gulf familiy is reunited, and the smile returns with the return of the Kuwaiti leadership and people to their homeland, Kuwait. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Comments on Gulf Crisis

LD0409150990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1415 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah 4 Sep (SPA)—The [Saudi] foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, has reaffirmed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's position, led by King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, calling for hope that the international community and the Arab world's efforts will persuade Iraq that the only way to find a peaceful settlement is represented by withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to it.

At a news conference with some British media held in Jeddah, his royal highness said: We are hoping that the sanctions imposed will drive home a message to the Iraqi leadership that the whole world stands against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, that the aggression cannot be justified in any way, and that the only solution lies in ending that aggression. He pointed out that the sanctions will have served their purpose if Iraq responds to the unanimous determination and persistence of the international community.

The foreign minister expressed the appreciation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and of all the peoples of the region for the stance taken by the British Government and people vis-a-vis Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and for Britain's contribution to the strengthening of the Saudi armed forces' defense capabilities to confront Iraqi aggression.

His royal highness told the British media that he has voiced these sentiments to the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, when they held an intensive discussion on the situation in the Arabian Gulf region. He said: The peoples of this region are against any attack on Kuwait, and against any attack on any country in the Arabian Gulf region.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal spoke about the initiative of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his efforts to arrive at a settlement concerning Iraq's invasion of the State of Kuwait, saying: It has not brought the hoped for results, as we were all hoping to see them lead to a peaceful settlement.

He added: If there were to be a possibility of finding a peaceful settlement of the situation, it would be through the continuous efforts and decision of the international community to stand against the Iraqi aggression, and to stand on the side not only of the decisions announced by the Arab League, but also in general on the side of the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Answering a question, his highness the foreign minister pointed out that the sanctions [against Iraq] were aimed at implementing Resolution 660 of the UN Security Council calling for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from the State of Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to Kuwait.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal further said: The important element here is Iraq's reaction, and in the light of this reaction there will be an assessment of how to resolve this problem either in a peaceful way or by an international action through the United Nations. He expressed his hope that there will be a change to correctness and reason, and an acceptance by Iraq of the carrying out of these resolutions.

His highness affirmed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is part of the international community, and that the resolutions should be implemented vis-a-vis all members of the United Nations. Therefore, any measures accepted by the UN Security Council will undoubtedly be carried out. His highness stressed that the way to deal with the aggression perpetrated by Iraq against the State of Kuwait is not an individual issue concerning Saudi Arabia but a collective question that concerns the entire international community.

However, his royal highness the foreign minister expressed regret that this has not occurred. He also expressed regret that some Arab countries have said they want an Arab solution without taking that relationship into account and without taking a stand of defending a country against the aggression that has taken place. He pointed out that these countries did not attend the last summit conference. He said: If we are trying to find an Arab solution to the crisis, we must work within the institution that has been accepted for united action, namely, the Arab League. I hope they will return to Arab legitimacy, and that the Arab League will become the instrument of Arab efforts.

The foreign minister was asked about his expectations of the forthcoming meeting on Sunday, 9 September, in Helsinki between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He said: If that meeting leads to further affirmation of the unity of the international community in confronting this aggression, it would certainly not be just healthy and useful, but extremely encouraging. I hope that the meeting will lead to the strengthening of international action against the aggression.

His royal highness stressed that all the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's efforts are concentrated on preventing any attack on it, and on ending the aggression on Kuwait. He said: This constitutes self-defense and the implementation of the [UN] Security Council resolutions.

In reply to a question on the forces deployed in the Kingdom, his royal highness pointed out that issue was clearly explained by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz when he announced the Kingdom's invitation to Arab, Islamic, and friendly countries to contribute to the strengthening of the Saudi armed forces' defense capabilities against aggression. His royal highness pointed out that Britain was among those countries.

Pakistani Oil Minister Arrives in Jeddah

BK0709095290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] A five-member Pakistani delegation led by Lieutenant General, retired, Abdul Majid Malik, federal petroleum and natural resources minister, has reached Jeddah to hold talks with Saudi petroleum and finance ministers. The delegation is expected to meet King Fahd, custodian of the two holy shrines, and deliver him a message from President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The delegation is also expected to meet the Kuwaiti oil minister in Jeddah.

United Arab Emirates

Syrian, Egyptian, Moroccan Forces Arrive

JN0509050790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Abu-Dhabi—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] this evening officially announced that Arab forces from Egypt, Morocco, and Syria have arrived in the UAE. This comes in compliance with the Arab spirit of brotherhood and mutual assistance and with these countries' contribution toward strengthening the defensive capabilities of the UAE, especially in light of the regional situations and dangers which surround the region.

Minister Departs With Message for Rafsanjani

NC0409160790 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sep 4 (WAKH)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah left today for Tehran carrying a message from President Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He was seen off by a number of officials including Iranian charge d'affaires 'Ali Majidi.

Yemen

President Voices Opposition to Iraqi Invasion

LD0309201490

[Editorial report] Paris Antenne 2 Television in French at 1800 GMT on 3 September carries a three-minute report from Sanaa by Philippe Boisserie and Roger Motte. The video opens with street scenes showing traders selling cards with anti-Saudi propaganda: King Fahd wrapped in a U.S. flag and leading a camel with the face of Egyptian President Mubarak and ridden by Bush, Mitterrand, Thatcher, and Shamir. A trader describes his cards as showing traitors to the Arab cause, and another says the problem is foreign intervention in the Arab world. The reporter says there are no more demonstrations here, but popular opinion still suports Saddam Husayn.

"A few kilometers away, in the presidential palace, the position is more moderate. The invasion of Kuwait is condemned, but there is regret that they do not have the means to send food and medicines to Iraq for humanitarian reasons, they say. Here they hope above all to find an Arab solution."

Video cuts to exterior of presidential palace showing President 'Ali 'Abdallah with aide crossing a large hall and sitting on a podium to speak; it is not clear from the video if this is an exclusive interview.

Speaking in Arabic with French translation superimposed, 'Ali 'Abdallah says: "In appearance, of course, the Arab world is divided, there is no doubt, but there are still contacts between us, including with those who have sent in their troops. As for us, we are calling for the simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi and Western forces, and we believe there is still a chance for an Arab solution, on condition that the Western countries support us. A war would have negative consequences for everyone. We hope, and we believe, that there will not be one. If there were to be one, we would not take part in this conflict."

Video then shows the reporter outside, speaking to camera, saying that Yemen aims to be a mediator between the sides.

Supplies of Food, Medicine to Iraq To Continue

NC0309181090 Paris AFP in English 1634 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Sanaa, Sept 3 (AFP)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said here Monday that his country would continue to send supplies of food and medicine to Baghdad, while abiding by the U.N. embargo against Iraq.

"We confirm that Yemen is respecting all the U.N. Security Council resolutions, except for the question of food and medicine," he told reporters after a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

The foreign secretary said the talks focused on their differences over the application of Security Council resolutions.

Interpretations of Security Council Resolution 661 on whether or not food is covered by the embargo have varied, with some countries asserting that Iraqi food imports should be banned while others insist they should be exempted.

The resolution prohibits the sale or supply to Iraq of all "commodities or products ... but not including supplies intended strictly for medical purposes and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs ..."

Yemen, an ally of Iraq, has condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2 but abstained from several Security Council resolutions against Baghdad, notably the economic embargo.

Sanaa was the fourth stop on Mr. Hurd's six-nation Gulf tour aimed at shoring up regional opposition to the invasion. The foreign secretary left later Monday for Saudi Arabia.

Yemeni officials last month ordered the expulsion of the British consul general in the southern city of Aden, Douglas Gordon, charging him with activities incompatible with his status as a diplomat.

But they reversed the decision following strong protests from Britain.

Nation Abstains From Emergency League Session

JN0609145090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Sanaa, 6 Sep (INA)—The Republic of Yemen has decided not to attend the emergency Arab League session called by the Egyptian regime.

A Yemeni Foreign Ministry spokesman told the INA correspondent in Sanaa that the Republic of Yemen thinks such a subject should be considered by an ordinary session, in accordance with a council of Arab ministers meeting held in March.

It is to be recalled that the Egyptian regime called the meeting for 10 September to consider relocating Arab League headquarters to Cairo.

Salih Receives Kuwaiti Envoy, Message From Amir

JN0209184890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received Muhammad Nasir al-Hamdan, envoy of Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs, in his office today. The minister conveyed to the brother chairman a message from his brother His Highness Amir Jabir. The message deals with the current crisis in the Gulf region.

During the meeting, the brother chairman stressed that our country will continue to make all efforts to settle differences among brothers and to contain this crisis peacefully within the Arab fold to save the region from the catastrophe of a military confrontation that would destroy the entire region.

Attending the meeting were brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs; brother Muhsin al-'Ulufi, minister of awqaf; and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Sanaa.

Government Protests U.S. 'Aggression' on Ship

JN0609200190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] United Nations, 6 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi Government has informed the UN Security Council of its strong protest and condemnation of the U.S. Navy aggression against the Iraqi ship Zanubia. This came in a message ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations, has sent to the UN secretary general. The official text of the message was published here today, Thursday, as one of the UN Security Council's documents.

The message said that this aggression was aimed at cutting off food supplies to the Iraqi people and at using food as a weapon to implement the plans of the United States and its allies against Iraq and the Arab nation. It added that the ship Zanubia was exposed to U.S. piracy on 3 September, and the U.S. Navy detained it when it was sailing in the Arabian Gulf toward the port of al-Basrah.

The Iraqi Government called on the international community to adopt the necessary measures to stop these aggressions and to secure the arrival of food and medicine to the Iraqi people in order to maintain basic human rights and UN principles.

Palestinian Source on Smuggling From Iran

NC0209154690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1506 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Tunis, 2 Sep (MENA)—A Palestinian source has said that the Iraqi-Iranian border will be the most important breach in the wall of the international blockade against Iraq, as more than 2 million Iranians are preparing to visit the holy shrines in the Iraqi city of Karbala' and will bring considerable quantities of foodstuffs. Citing this source, the newspaper AL-SABAH reported today that the Iranians may seize this opportunity to engage in small transactions which would allow "an unlimited flow circumventing the blockade imposed on Iraq." The paper says that the smugglers should not find it difficult to bring in foodstuffs, arms, and ammunition over the Iranian and Turkish borders with Iraq, but rules out such smuggling through the Syrian border. It should be recalled that a high-level Palestinian delegation visited Iran last week.

Departure of Indian Ship From Kuwait Reported

JN0609113790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi-flagged Indian ship Safeer left the al-Shuwaykh port in the Kuwait Governorate Tuesday [4 September] afternoon with 650 Indians on board. They were allowed to leave upon their request.

The INA correspondent in the governorate said the Safeer is the first foreign ship to leave the al-Shuwaykh port after the unity merger. The ship was piloted in territorial waters by Iraqi pilots.

'New Group' of Foreigners Departs Baghdad 6 Sep

JN0609201890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1959 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—A new group of foreign women and children left Baghdad this evening, following orders by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn that Iraq's guests be given the option of either staying in Iraq or traveling home.

Speaking to INA, Iraq's guests noted the hospitality and care afforded them by the people and Government of Iraq during their stay. They called the choice given them by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to stay in Iraq or leave for their home countries a message of love and peace to the world. It teaches a lesson to the world about the lofty principles guiding the Iraqi people. They further urged that people around the world move promptly to take a stand against U.S. schemes in the interest of regional and global peace.

Kurdish Spokesman on Foreigners' Location

LD3108220690 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] A spokesman for Iraq's Kurdistan Patriotic Front, (?who is) fighting the Iraqi Government, has revealed the locations where the foreign hostages are being held in Iraq. The spokesman told (?reporters) today that the foreign hostages had been transferred to Kirkuk airbase and Dukan, Darbandijan [as heard] and (Eski) dams in northern Iraq on the 24th of August. He said the guerrillas of Iraq's Kurdistan Patriotic Front had witnessed the transfer of the hostages to the region. He concluded by saying that oil production in Karkuk and Mosul oilfields have almost come to a halt except for local use.

'Intermediaries' Offer To Smuggle Out Hostages

AU0609120090 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1000 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Interview with reporter Antonia Rados, "who has just returned from Baghdad," by unidentified reporter in Vienna on 6 September—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reporter] You have reported that the hostages in Iraq only told people confidentially what really happened. Can you discuss this yet?

[Rados] If I do not mention any names, I can talk about it. Hostages who came from southern Iraq and Kuwait told me that the soldiers threatened them, at least verbally, that women and children were repeatedly transferred to new lodgings, and that, on the other hand, anonymous Iraqi intermediaries offered to take them out of the country for $3,000 per person. Some of the groups of hostages considered accepting this offer to be, so to speak, smuggled out of the country, but they were very afraid that this would result in reprisals against those who remained behind. [passage omitted]

Courts To Enforce Laws on Foreigners' Whereabouts

JN0609142590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—The Ministry of Justice has called on all courts and public prosecution departments in Iraq to apply the legal articles regarding implementation of the provisions in amended Law No. 118 of 1978 on the residence of foreigners. In a statement to INA, Justice Minister Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir stressed that the aforementioned law includes punitive provisions against foreigners who violate this law.

The minister pointed out that the call on the courts to apply the articles of this law comes under the prevailing circumstances, and as a response to inquiries on the residence and duties of foreigners in accordance with the law and its amendments.

The residence law defined punitive measures against a foreigner if an attempt was made to leave Iraq without notifying the competent authorities, or to conceal his place of residence. Article "C" of "1" in "first" stipulates that when entering or leaving Iraq, the passport bearer shall follow one of the roads specified in the passports law in accordance with amended Article 24 of the aforementioned law. If the foreigner violates the entry and exit conditions as stipulated in the aforementioned article [C], then he shall be sentenced to temporary or life imprisonment, and his funds shall be confiscated.

Article 6 of the law stipulates among other things that the foreigner who requests a visa should define his place of residence in the Republic of Iraq. Article 8 of the aforementioned law stipulates that anyone under a work contract or any other obligation, is not allowed to leave Iraq until after obtaining an exit visa from the competent authority, which must ensure that he has obtained a clearance document issued by the employer. The amended Article 24 stipulates that, based on this article, anyone leaving the country without obtaining an exit visa shall be sentenced to temporary or life imprisonment, and all his funds shall be confiscated. The foreigner should inform the residence officer when he changes his place of residence. If he moves to another area or town, he should inform the residence officer within 48 hours of his arrival at his new place of residence.

Anyone who violates the provisions of Article 10 shall be sentenced to not less than a year and no more than three years in prison and pay a fine of no more than 500 dinars and not less than 100 dinars, or one of these two penalties. Anyone who does not give back the residence document granted him before leaving the country shall be sentenced to no more than three years, fined no more than 200 dinars, or one of these two penalties.

Anyone who violates the law preventing foreigners from passing through, wandering, or residing in the areas specified for military, administrative, or political reasons included in Article 13 of the law, shall be sentenced to not less than a year and no more than three years, fined no more than 500 dinars and not less than 100 dinars, or one of these two penalties.

The amended Article 24 of the same law stipulates that any foreigner previously deported from the Republic of Iraq is not allowed to return, except in accordance with a decision. Anyone who violates the provisions of this article shall be sentenced to temporary or life imprisonment, and his funds shall be confiscated.

It is worth mentioning that in its Decree No. 341, dated 24 August 1990, the Revolution Command Council considered that sheltering foreigners with the aim of hiding them from the authorities a crime of espionage, and that anyone who commits this crime shall be sentenced to death.

IRCS To Pass on Family Messages to Foreigners

JN0609135190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1258 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi Red Crescent Society [IRCS] says it is to pass on messages from relatives to foreign nationals hosted by Iraq, as kindly directed by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

According to the IRCS president, the organization will make available to these nationals social and psychological services. The IRCS will, in concert with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, help move the women and children prior to their departure for their home countries.

Report on Missiles in Sudan Aimed at Egypt Denied

JN0609204890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1924 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—An official spokesman has ridiculed today's report in the United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-BAYAN, which said Iraq has set up several Skyguard missile pads in northern Sudan and directed them toward Egyptian targets, including the High Dam.

The spokesman told INA that Iraq, which harbors love for Egypt and its people, could not do such a thing, which would conflict with our principles. He added: We are not like those who sold their homeland to foreigners and brought them to the land of Arabs in order to desecrate their sanctities and point the arrows of the Americans and Zionists at the chests of the sons of the Arab nation. He said Iraq is too lofty to listen to such news, whose promoters are well known to it. Let the mouths of the hireling agents be shut up.

Paper Says 'Angry' Saudi Army Behind Incidents

JN0609090490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says that the paid-for U.S. occupation of the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] will not continue peacefully.

In one of its articles today, the paper refers to the crash of a fighter plane, the explosion of a tank and a vehicle carrying missiles belonging to the U.S. forces which are occupying Najd and Hejaz, and the U.S. officials' refusal to comment on the three incidents. The paper says this refusal only means that they cannot say what had really taken place concerning their destroyed military hardware, and that they do not want to admit that these incidents are premeditated actions and that they still ignore who had carried them out.

The paper adds that the U.S. officials do not want to face the reality that the Saudi Army which is being humiliated and disgraced at the hands of their invading forces, is angry at their presence to the point that some of the members of this Saudi army could have had something to do with these premeditated operations.

The paper affirms that the people in the Arabian Peninsula cannot remain silent for long over these invaders who are doing what they want with their land and are desecrating their holy places, and that they will resist them, destroy their planes, and detonate their tanks, and that this is actually taking place.

The paper says: If some claim that these incidents are an act of God, we would like to tell them that God Almighty, who had sent flights of birds against the army of Abraha [Abyssinyan leader who invaded Mecca with a large army] to strike it with stones of baked clay until he made that army become like an empty field of stalks and straw of which the corn has been eaten up, can send other flights of birds to Bush's army to destroy its planes, tanks, and vehicles, not to mention the snakes and scorpions which are attacking his soldiers, killing many of them.

The paper concludes by saying: What the Bush forces are experiencing makes us more convinced that God, the people, nature, and history are all on our side and enhance our firm belief that victory will be ours and defeat will be the lot of our enemies.

Information Minister Warns U.S., Israel, Others

JN0109112390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has made the following statement to INA:

Despite the fact that Israel—for known reasons—wants to hide itself from the crisis created by America in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula in accordance with known instructions planned by American imperialism, its rancor against Iraq cannot make it balance its behavior in the media organs and published researches to achieve the goals it failed to achieve throughout the past years to undermine the capability of great Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. The statements made by Ari'el Sharon, former Zionist defense minister, in which he urges the United States to deal a military blow to Iraq before it is too late; urging Bush through the Zionist entity's radio to belittle the importance of Iraq's foreign national guests if a blow is to be dealt; and belittling the military capabilities of Iraq are temptations to the United States to achieve the Zionist entity's dream of igniting the war.

Kissinger's statements in which he urges America to expedite the blow to Iraq because time is not in the interest of Washington, but weakens its position in the Middle East, show the rancor of Zionism and its yearning to deal with the new developments, and its disregard for the souls of the foreigners who are guests in Iraq, to achieve its objectives aimed at trying to weaken Iraq.

In all cases, Zionism, its ally the United States, and all collaborators will face a bitter defeat. The battle with them will be fierce and their fate will be inevitable if they dare to attack our territory and if they remain on our holy lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

May evil befall those who collaborated with the United States and Israel against the Arab nation and its holy places.

Editor Reacts To Baker Remarks on U.S. Presence

JN0509102390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statements that U.S. Forces might stay in the Middle East as part of a new security program in the region, even after the Gulf crisis is settled, the INA international affairs editor said:

Thus, the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy that is supported by the betrayer of the two holy mosques, of bringing U.S. Forces to the region, was exposed by the U.S. secretary of state, who said that the U.S. Forces might stay in the region even after the Gulf crisis is settled. This is what Iraq warned against through several statements when it said that the arrival of U.S. Forces in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] was not to defend Saudi Arabia, or on the pretext of defending Saudi Arabia against an alleged Iraqi threat, inasmuch as it is a premeditated conspiracy to occupy the Arab and Islamic sanctities and to control Arab oil for a long period of time.

Honest Arabs and Muslims are called on today, more than at any time in the past, to abort this conspiracy and to confront those who supported it, foremost of whom are the betrayer of the two holy mosques and Husni Mubarak, who supported the arrival of U.S. Forces with the aim of mortgaging the Islamic sanctities and Arab oil to the United States and the Zionists.

U.S. Said Forced To Beg for Troops' Financing

JN0609165890 Baghdad in English to Saudi Arabia 1130 GMT 6 Sep 90

["A message to the American soldiers in the Arab lands of Saudi Arabia from the sons of Mesopotamia"]

[Text] Dear friends: The situation in the Arab Gulf makes every Arab citizen more and more concerned with the developments in the daily events and with any new change in everybody's positions, statements, or action. Similarly, the situation is of great concern to the foreign countries, and more in particular those countries that are really involved in the issue; and, of course, in front of these countries stands the United States, whose involvement is more serious than others. But, if it should continue in its part of more military deployment and mobilization, it can only lead to greater harm to humanity in general, and to devastating results if war should erupt.

We really wonder how much of your troops is your administration prepared to lose! We do so, and state straight in the face and simply as we say that deep inside us, we are not eager to lose any of our brave men, unless when we have to defend our national soil and sovereignty, as we did in eight years of war with Iran.

But what really amazes me is the double-face—or let us say triple-face—political, military, and economical policy of your administration. You see, from one hand, your government continues to bring along more and more of your troops, seemingly forgetting Vietnam. By the way, is Vietnam something that one can forget? Then, they are bringing one of the biggest and toughest military equipments ever deployed outside the states. On the other hand, they are sort of making you an army of mercenaries, not feeling shy for begging monetary supplies to cover the immense cost of your needless stay in the desert. But the money the other countries are paying is not that much. It does not really reflect full enthusiasm in the (?cause), as if they all feel it is rather an American issue alone. So, how much more you think the administration can beg?

On the third hand—and this believe me is very hard to believe—it is the outstanding gesture of generosity that President Bush showed the other day in ending the debts of Egypt for its support to the issue. Do you how much was that debt? It is $7.1 billion, honestly.

Please ask Mr. Bush how much did he manage to get for your stay in the desert, and then we will talk later.

Foreign Minister Calls UK's Thatcher 'Liar'

JN0609202790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—Commenting on the remarks made by the British prime minister at the House of Commons on the history of the Kuwaiti issue, the foreign minister stated the following:

We listened to the presentation on the history of the Kuwaiti issue, which was full of paradoxes made by the British prime minister at the British House of Commons. She deliberately concealed the historical facts regarding this issue, and lied when she said that the Iraqi Government accepted the borders marked by officials of the British colonial administration in 1932. The Iraqi Government has never accepted the separation of Kuwait from Iraq. It has continued over the past 30 years to demand the return of this part to Iraq, which was separated by the British. Moreover, the plot that resulted in the assassination of King Ghazi by Britain and its agents confirms that Britain resorted to treachery and crime to thwart Iraq's claims on Iraq. [passage as received] Likewise, its agent Ahmad Jabir was at the time suppressing the popular demand in Kuwait for unity with Iraq. The British prime minister deliberately concealed the facts concerning the era following this period regarding the Iraqi Government's demand in the fifties that Kuwait be returned to its sovereignty or that it at least be made a member of the Arab Union [made up of Iraq and Jordan in the fifties]. The talk, which is full of historical paradoxes, reveals the weak position of the British prime minister, who is seeking to safeguard the British colonial legacy against the wishes of the Arab nation and in contravention of historical facts.

The foreign minister added that the files of the British Foreign Office show the British prime minister to be a liar.

Editor Ridicules Hurd's Statement on Gulf

JN0109105390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA)—The INA international affairs editor has ridiculed statements made yesterday by the British foreign secretary—statements that are full of falsehood and empty arrogance. The editor noted Hurd's claim that the coming weeks or months will define whether the situation requires more shooting and fighting or will be resolved peacefully.

The INA editor wondered about what Hurd said in his statement, and if, in the first place, there is shooting or fighting in the Gulf that made the British secretary say it will either continue or stop, if there is an intention to reach a peaceful solution. The INA editor ridiculed Hurd's remarks to soldiers on the British destroyer "Battle Axe" off the Qatari coast that there will be a reasonable opportunity to reach a peaceful solution if the circumstances help us to continue the blockade against Iraq.

'Free Officers' Group Pledges Saddam's Overthrow

PM0609143990 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 2 Sep 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Free Iraqi Officers' Organization Pledges To Topple Saddam"—publication formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] AL-ANBA' has obtained the text of the appeal distributed by the Iraqi Free Officers' Organization to Iraqi Army units in Kuwait and Iraq on 19 August. In the appeal it condemns Saddam Husayn's criminal acts and betrayal of Kuwait and pledges to rid the Iraqi people of his oppression and the harm he is causing. AL-ANBA' obtained a copy of the appeal from an Egyptian citizen returning from Kuwait:

Appeal:
To our honorable officers:
We call on you to beware of the nation's traitor. A few days ago a group of your free officers, who believe that our mission is sacrifice, not treason or the murder of brothers, carried out the order of honor and martyrdom. Saddam can now rely only on his mercenaries from the Republican Guards, most of whose members are from Tikrit, to carry out his continuous crimes against our people and his aggression against Kuwait. And now that he has realized their failure, he will work on pulling them back to Baghdad, for their own protection and for fear of inevitable annihilation.

Saddam Husayn's thirst for blood has confused him: For what purpose did he waste the lives of thousands of Muslims in Iraq and Iran? And in whose interests did he destroy the economies of the two countries and the region? Suddenly he has abandoned all his demands and returned to the 1975 agreement. In fact he has made further concessions—the attitude of a coward when cornered.

Sons of the Iraqi Army: We call on you to beware, because the tyrant's madness will lead to total destruction. He will push you into the furnace of war and will destroy the Arab strength in your Army.

Your organization pledges to God to work to rid your helpless people and the entire world of the tyrant's evils. You are the light of truth which will brighten the nation's skies and dispel the cloud that has eclipsed Iraq from the Arab nation.

God is great, and victory is ours.
[Signed] The Free Officers' Organization in Iraq
[Dated] 19 August 1990

Food Demonstrations Reported in Baghdad

LD0609204590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] A number of Iraqi citizens demonstrated in Baghdad after the basic supply materials, such as sugar, rice, and wheat, disappeared from the markets. The demonstrators chanted slogans hostile to the Iraqi regime and Saddam Husayn.

Kuwait Radio said that the presidential guard forces fired at the demonstrators, killing and wounding some of them; a number of demonstrators were also arrested and transported to an unknown place. The radio added that there are news about similar demonstrations in the cities of Musil and Karbala'.

Official Blames Countries for Klibi Resignation

NC0409203390 Paris AFP in English 2027 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 4 (AFP)—A senior Iraqi official on Tuesday blamed Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria for the resignation of Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. "The Egyptian-Saudi-Syrian alliance is behind the resignation of Mr. Klibi," a director at the foreign ministry, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

He said the resignation annnounced Monday was a result of the "immoral behaviour toward Mr. Klibi" at the emergency Arab summit in Cairo on August 10, where a slim majority of Arab states approved the sending of troops to Saudi Arabia. "This axis, which is feverishly seeking to divide Arab ranks to serve U.S. and Zionist interests, wants to... prepare the ground for U.S. and NATO forces to execute their hostile plans" (against Iraq), Mr. Hammudi said.

Egypt and Syria, along with Morocco, have sent troops to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to bolster their defences after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2. The Iraqi official charged that Egypt had pressured Mr. Klibi to resign, aiming to replace him with an Egyptian "who would apply policies laid down by the United States and Egypt."

But Egypt would not succeed in its bid because its candidate would fail to secure the two-thirds majority required by Arab League regulations, Mr. Hammudi said, paying tribute to Mr. Klibi's 11-year term in office. Mr. Klibi, a Tunisian, resigned because he did not want to oversee the division of the Arab League over the Gulf crisis, analysts in the Arab League headquarters of Tunis said.

Egyptian, Sudanese Report to Training Camps

JN0509185890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The first batch of Arab volunteers from the sons of Arab Egypt and Sudan reported to training camps today to share, along with the sons of Iraq, the task of confronting the fierce and aggressive onslaught led by the United States, Britain, and certain European and Arab states following on the footsteps of imperialism and world Zionism.

In statements to INA, the volunteers said they felt very proud and happy because they have been given the honor of sharing, along with their Iraqi brothers, the task of confronting the foreign invading troops which have desecrated the holy lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and other Arab lands in the Arabian Gulf region. They condemned the unfair UN resolutions passed against Iraq because of the pressures applied by the U.S. Administration, the European states, and agent Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Over 2 Million Volunteers From North

JN0409141090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Up to yesterday, the total number of people volunteering from the northern regions is 2,002,366. The distribution is as follows: 488,898 volunteers in al-Sulaymaniyah; 410,366 in Irbil; 280,693 in Nineveh; 336,000 in al-Ta'mim; 395,062 in Mosul; and 127,181 in Dahuk. The number of volunteers yesterday alone was 106,333.

Kurdistan Party Members Ready To Volunteer

JN0109144190 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Dahuk, Sept. 1, INA—Members of the Kurdistan Democratic Party on Friday announced readiness to volunteer and sacrifice themselves in defence of Iraq against the American and Israeli invading forces which defiled Moslem sacred land in Mecca and al-Madinah.

In a meeting held by the party to discuss the hazards emanating from the American-Zionist schemes against the Arab nation, members of the party strongly stressed that they would be in the forefront to thwart all conspiracies against Iraq and the Arab nation.

5,000 Women Volunteer To Defend 'Great Iraq'

JN0209161390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Up to yesterday, Saturday, the number of volunteers from Ba'th Party Northern Bureau organizations was 1,811,974. The number of women from the brave al-Basrah Governorate who have volunteered to defend great Iraq and foil Zionist and imperialist designs on the Arab nation 5,000.

This came in a statement to the INA correspondent by the head of the General Federation of Iraqi Women's branch in brave al-Basrah, the city of cities. She said that some of the women volunteers will carry arms and the others will be trained in civil defense operations, blood donations, sewing, and medical procedures to treat emergency cases. The women will, along with Iraqi men, help to teach the aggressors a lesson should they take foolish action against the sons of our proud people.

Privileges Given to Killed, Wounded in Kuwait

JN0709091790 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Sep 90 p 6

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided to give those martyred and wounded in the operations of the day of the call [Iraqi troops' entry into Kuwait] the same privileges given to those martyred and wounded in the glorious Saddam al-Qadisiyah [9th century Omayyad defeat of Persians] battle. The following is the text of the decision:

Decision No. 340

Decision dated: 3 Safar 1411 Hegira, 24 August 1990. In accordance with Paragraph A, Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

—First, those martyred and wounded in the operations of the day of the call shall be given the same privileges given to those martyred and wounded in the glorious Saddam al-Qadisiyah battle.

—Second, competent ministers and concerned departments shall apply this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC Chairman.

'Protest Correspondence' Exempt From Postal Fees

JN0209152190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah has announced that all protest correspondence would be exempted from postal fees as of tomorrow, Monday.

In a statement to INA, the transport and communications minister said that this measure is in support of our great Iraqi people's struggle and their resounding shouts against the Zionist and imperialist aggression and the arbitrary measures taken by the colonialist states against Iraq.

Ministry Orders Bakeries To Operate Daily

JN0309135490 Kuwait AL-NIDA' in Arabic 31 Aug 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Ministry of Trade has decided to ban the suspension of work at any bakery in Baghdad and all governorates for any reason with the aim of guaranteeing the availability of bread for citizens.

This was declared by Minister of Trade Muhammad Mahdi Salih at the seminar held by the ministry for bakery owners on 29 August. The seminar was attended by the director general of Public Company for Seed Processing as well as a number of officials at control and commercial organs.

The minister affirmed that bread, in addition to other foodstuffs, is guaranteed by the state for all citizens. Therefore, the ministry made it clear that bakeries must work regularly and start selling to the public as of 0500 in the morning. He said bakeries must not sell large quantities to individuals and must absolutely abide by fair distribution among citizens. Bakeries must also abide by the quality of production, health conditions, and fixed prices.

The minister affirmed that the company, in cooperation with the control and health organs, will observe all bakeries, directly supervise the production and distribution processes, and monitor any violations whereby this material is used or sold for nonhuman purposes through the deliberate carelessness about the quality of production. He said the company will confiscate any spoiled quantities and take to account the violators in accordance with the Revolution Command Council Decree No. 315 issued on 11 August 1990 considering the monopoly of foodstuffs for commercial purposes a crime and an act of subversion against the homeland's security.

The minister indicated that the share of flour for any bakery that will suspend its work for any reason will be transferred to the operating bakery in the same neighborhood. The license granted to any bakery shut down by its owner will be transferred to any citizen who vows to operate it. He explained that according to instructions, requests for closure of bakeries will be dismissed.

The minister affirmed that the ministry, through the Public Company for Seed Processing, will guarantee for bakery owners all their needs of flour within the set production plan and will help them overcome obstacles through the restructuring of the maintenance team in the company in order to extend services to the bakery owners and to directly provide spare parts.

The minister informed the participants in the seminar of the need to contact the control organs at the ministry and economic security department through several of direct-dial phone numbers to request assistance in implementing their duties.

The minister touched on the importance of this sector in the battle of defending the homeland and holy land through the performance of its national duties to organize our economic life and in response to the call of leader President Saddam Husayn for increasing production and rationalizing consumption. He voiced confidence that everyone at every position is looking forward to the honor of taking part in this sacred battle behind the leader to terminate the economic blockade and defeat the U.S. invaders.

Algerian Islamic Front Leader Meets With Saddam

Discusses U.S. Presence in Gulf

JN3008141390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Abbassi Madani, leader of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front. During the meeting they discussed the dangers of the U.S. military presence on Arab territory and the latest regional developments.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and 'Abdallah Fadil, awqaf and religious affairs minister.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN3108120190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Abbassi Madani, leader of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front, and his delegation left Baghdad this morning following a two-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Madani expressed great happiness for meeting with Leader President Saddam Husayn. He stressed that the Arab-Islamic determination is capable of resolving its own problems without resorting to other covetous and rancorous foreign forces.

He was seen off at the airport by 'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs.

Philippine Foreign Minister Departs 31 Aug

JN3108115590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus and his delegation left Baghdad today following a three-day visit to Iraq. In a statement to INA, the Philippine minister expressed happiness for the warm hospitality which the foreign and Philippine nationals have received and are still receiving in Iraq. He stressed that his country is prepared to help in any way possible to strengthen peace in the region.

The Philippine minister denied allegations made by the western press which reported false news regarding Phlippine nationals in Kuwait. He pointed out that those reports are untrue, and stressed that all Philippine nationals in Iraq live a normal life and enjoy good care from the Iraqi Government and the friendly people of Iraq.

The minister was seen off by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the Philippine ambassador in Baghdad.

PFLP's Habash, Delegation Arrive in Baghdad

JN0109195190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA)—George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], arrived in Baghdad today leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq.

He was welcomed by the director and members of the Arab Liberation Movements Bureau in the Revolution Command Council.

Meets With Saddam

JN0209145290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. During the meeting, they discussed the current Arab situation and developments in the region.

Confers With Ramadan

JN0309144490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1413 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and his delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed developments on the Arab arena. The first deputy prime minister has stressed that the developments that have been and are still being witnessed on the Arab arena have exposed the agents and conspirators among certain Arab leaders and their connections which they were trying to hide behind the cover of pan-Arabism. He pointed out that the comprehensive mass tide in the Arab countries is the effective weapon to foil this conspiracy and aggression against the Arab nation waged by the Americans and certain Arab leaders who are in league with them.

Dr. George Habash stressed that the PFLP stands in the same trench with Iraq, and supports it in its struggle against the foreign invasion of Arab territories.

Meets With 'Aziz

JN0409122090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], today.

During the meeting the two sides discussed the situation in the Arab arena in light of the U.S. military occupation of the Arab Gulf, and the threats to Iraq and the Arab nation, in addition to several issues of common interest.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister reiterated Iraq's full support for the Palestinian people's heroic struggle against the Zionist occupation troops.

Dr. George Habash reiterated the Palestinian people's support for Iraq's just pan-Arab battle and its confrontation of imperialist and Zionist forces that seek to undermine the Arab nation and its dignity.

The head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department attended the meeting.

Says Arabs With Saddam, Departs

JN0409165790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Dr. George Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has expressed his full conviction that the leaders and people of Iraq will teach Bush and the U.S. Administration a tough lesson—no less tough than the lesson taught the U.S. Administration in the sixties and seventies by the Vietnamese people.

In a statement to INA upon departure from Baghdad today, he expressed appreciation and gratitude to the political leadership in Iraq headed by leader President Saddam Husayn for the friendship and fraternity he sensed throughout his stay in Baghdad. He added that the conspiracy planned by imperialist circles does not target Iraq alone, but all Arabs. Therefore, the battle today is that of the Arab masses from the ocean to the gulf. He affirmed the solidarity of the Palestinian people, wherever they might be, and that of liberation movement factions, with the Iraqi people in their confrontation of American and foreign troops to create a stage [words indistinct].

To see him off at the airport were the head and members of the Arab liberation movements office at the Revolution Command Council.

Tunisian Minister Meets With Saddam

Stresses Support of Tunisia

JN0109132490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Chadli Neffati, Tunisian justice minister and envoy of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. During the meeting, the Tunisian minister conveyed a written letter to the leader president from his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali dealing with the close and brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries as well as the latest developments in the region.

The Tunisian minister stressed that the Tunisian leadership and people support Iraq in the face of the threats at this decisive historic stage in the life of the Arab nation. The leader president expressed his deep appreciation and that of the Iraqi people for the genuine pan-Arab positions of the Tunisian leadership and people to support Iraq in its pan-Arab defense of the Arabs' honor and dignity against foreign threats.

Leader President Saddam Husayn asked Neffati to convey his brotherly and heartfelt greetings to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and to the proud Tunisian people. Neffati was accompanied by (Mohamed El Mua'dah), secretary general of the Democratic Socialist Movement. The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting minister of foreign affairs.

Departs Baghdad

JN0109182690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Chadli Neffati, Tunisian justice minister and envoy of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, left Baghdad today after a two-day visit to Iraq. He was seen off at the airport by Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Qadir Akram 'Ali and the Tunisian ambassador in Baghdad.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns to Baghdad 1 Sep

JN0209071690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad this evening following a two-day visit to Jordan.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz held a series of meetings with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, during which they discussed developments in the region.

'Aziz, Sommaruga Discuss Red Cross Role, POW's

JN0209145790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1402 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], who is currently visiting Iraq. During the meeting, 'Aziz stressed the need for the ICRC to shoulder its humanitarian responsibilities independently and apart from the desires and interests of some states that adopt premeditated hostility to Iraq and its people.

The two sides also discussed the exchange of POW's in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's initiative stated in the letter he sent to the Iranian president on 14 August 1990, and under the supervision of the ICRC. He also stressed that there needed to be a comprehensive exchange and release of all POW's.

Sudanese Envoy Arrives With Words of Support

JN0209150190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)—Al-Sadiq Bakhit, media adviser to the Sudanese president and personal envoy of Revolution Command Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir to his brother leader President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Baghdad today.

In a statement to INA, the Sudanese envoy said that during his visit he would convey a special message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother the Sudanese president as part of the continued consultations between the two fraternal countries. He also stated that his visit to Iraq expresses the Sudanese people's support for the Iraqi people in their confrontation of the U.S. and foreign forces in the Arab region.

Meets With Saddam

JN0209195190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received al-Sadiq Bakhit, media adviser to the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman. During the meeting, Bakhit conveyed a written message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother RCC Chairman 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir dealing with the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries as well as the current developments in the Arab region.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Departs Baghdad

JN0309153690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Al-Sadiq Bakhit, media adviser to and personal envoy of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council chairman, left Baghdad today. The Sudanese envoy conveyed a written message to leader President Saddam Husayn from his brother the Sudanese president dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries, Arab conditions, and current developments in the region.

He was seen off at the airport by the Culture and Information Ministry under secretary and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Chadian President Replies to Saddam Message

JN0409184190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Mr. Mundhir Ibrahim al-Shawi, minister of higher education and scientific research and envoy of leader President Saddam Husayn, has conveyed a message from his excellency to Chadian President Hissein Habre dealing with events in the Arabian Gulf and the U.S. intervention in the region.

He delivered the message when the Chadian president received Mr. Mundhir Ibrahim al-Shawi in Ndjamena today.

President Hissein Habre asked President Saddam Husayn's envoy to convey his greetings and fraternal fellowship with his excellency in anything needed to confront the American-Zionist aggression against Iraq. He declared that his country rejected the presence of U.S. and allied forces on the holy Arab territories and that Iraq should maintain its force, dignity, and honor.

Libya's Al-Kharrubi Arrives With Message

JN0509141190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, envoy of Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, arrived in Baghdad at noon today.

In a statement to INA, the Libyan envoy said that he is going to convey an oral message from Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on fraternal bilateral ties and current regional developments.

Meets With Ibrahim

JN0509191890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1717 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution.

The message was handed to 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], during his meeting with Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council.

Col. al-Kharrubi relayed the greetings of Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

During the meeting, Ibrahim and al-Kharrubi reviewed the fraternal bilateral ties and recent developments in the Arabian Gulf region.

The meeting was attended by Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister; and the Libyan charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Departs Baghdad 6 Sep

JN0609104890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council and Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's envoy to President Saddam Husayn, left Baghdad today at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, Col. al-Kharrubi conveyed a message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on bilateral relations and the developments in the region.

Italian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives 5 Sep

JN0609105790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—(Mario Cabana), member of the foreign relations committee in the Italian Parliament, arrived in Baghdad late this afternoon at the head of a parliamentarian delegation on a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

In a statement to INA, he said he is pleased to visit Iraq, the cradle of civilization.

He said that during the visit he will hold talks with officials in the National Assebly on bilateral relations and the current developments in the region.

He pointed out that dialogue and diplomacy are the only means to establish lasting peace in the region and that resorting to threats and military interventions would spark war in the region.

Saddam Sees Off Jordan's King Husayn

JN0609143690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1356 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—Jordanian monarch His Majesty King Husayn left Baghdad this afternoon following a brief one-day visit. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn led those at the airport to see King Husayn off.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn this morning visited his brother His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at his place of residence.

His excellency the president escorted his majesty the king in an official motorcade to the airport to see the king off. At the airport, his majesty shook hands with those on hand to bid him farewell: Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting minister of foreign affairs; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman [as received]. Meanwhile, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn shook hands with members of the delegation accompanying his majesty the king: Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to his majesty the king.

At the ramp of his majesty the king's private jet, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn hugged his brother His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, wishing him a safe return in God's care and protection.

Ramadan Departs for PRC Visit 5 Sep

JN0509185290 Baghdad INA in English 1638 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept.5, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council and First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan left Baghdad today for the People's Republic of China.

In a statement to INA Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan [word indistinct] visit came within the exchange of visits between the officials in Iraq and China and aimed at discussing bilateral relations and contributing to enhance and expand cooperation in different fields.

The first deputy premier added that he would discuss with the Chinese leaders developments of the situation in the Arab Gulf region and dangers of the presence of foreign fleets and military troops on the Arab territories and waters and what that presence constituted of illegitimate intervention and the threat to stability and security they were posing to the region and the world.

Mr. Ramadan further confirmed that Iraq's stance towards what was going on in the region was clear and frank and spelt out by President Saddam Husayn in person and his repeated initiatives, the foremost of which his excellency's initiative on the 12th of last

August, which is Iraq's keenness on peace and security in the region, the necessity of implementing international legitimacy in all international issues and rejecting the formula of selectivity of resolutions and their application on the some and non-application on the other some.

The delegation accompanying Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan a delegation consisting of foreign and agriculture and irrigation undersecretaries and a number of officials. [sentence as received]

Red Cross President Leaves for Iran for Talks

JN0609070390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], and his delegation left Baghdad late this afternoon for Tehran following a five-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA he said that he discussed with Iraqi officials the exchange of POW's with Iran in compliance with President Saddam Husayn's initiative to the Iranian President on 15 August, under the auspices of the ICRC.

He added that he will return to Baghdad after discussions with Iranian officials on the same subject.

'Aziz Returns to Baghdad Following USSR Talks

JN0609153790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1508 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad today at the conclusion of a two-day visit to the USSR.

During the visit Mr. 'Aziz conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He also held talks with senior Soviet officials on bilateral ties and on current developments in the region.

Refusal to Receive Egyptian POW's Denied

JN0609200990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1923 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—A responsible source has denied today's Cairo AL-WAFD report that Iraq has refused to receive the Egyptian prisoners of war being held in Iran. He told INA that this report is baseless, and that the exchange of prisoners is organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross in cooperation with the Iraqi and Iranian Governments.

More POW's Arrive in Iraq From Iran

31 Aug

JN0109073590 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The 18th batch of Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] returning to the homeland arrived at the al-Mundhiriyah border area at 1930 today. This batch includes 900 POW's. [passage omitted]

1 Sep

JN0109164490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1612 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA)—The 19th batch of Iraqi POW's returning to the homeland has arrived in the al-Mundhiriyah area. An official and popular reception was accorded to the POW's in which popular and professional organizations and crowds of citizens participated. They lined up on both sides of the road leading to the area.

At the same time, a new batch of Iranian POW's, whom Iraq decided to release in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's letter to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 15 August, have also been turned over.

2 Sep

JN0209180090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The 20th batch of Iraqi POW's arrived back home today. Upon disembarking from the vehicles that brought them to Iraqi territory at al-Mundhiriyah, they bent to kiss the homeland's soil. [passage omitted]

5 Sep

JN0609070590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1640 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The 23d batch of Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] returned home by land this afternoon. [passage omitted]

In a related development, a further batch of Iranian POW's was handed over this afternoon. Their release was decided by Iraq in accordance with the message sent by His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 15 August.

6 Sep

JN0609194590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Ba'qubah, 6 Sep (INA)—The 24th group of Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] arrived at the border area of al-Mundhiriyah today. [passage omitted]

In a related development, a further batch of Iranian POW's was handed over this afternoon. Their release was decided on by Iraq in accordance with the message His Excellency President Saddam Husayn sent to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 15 August.

Shamir on Levi Talks, 'Unanimity' With U.S.

TA0709123290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shlomo Raz given "a few minutes ago" in Tel Aviv—recorded]

[Text] [Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, we have received various reports on Foreign Minister David Levi's meetings in Washington. Do they signify a new leaf in our relations with the United States?

[Shamir] I think the foreign minister's Washington meetings have been most successful. So far, what was made clear is that there is almost absolute unanimity regarding the positions Israel should adopt at this time. In general, I am satisfied, although this does not come as a surprise; it is the natural result of the situation and of the two countries' position.

[Raz] Still, we may have received kudos, but the Egyptians have been granted a $7 billion write-off of their debt to the United States.

[Shamir] True, but I assume Minister David Levi is aware of this issue and is taking care of it.

[Raz] Mr. Shamir, the Der'i affair is persistently in the headlines. What is your reaction to it?

[Shamir] I am not interfering in this affair. An investigation is in progress, and I believe the appropriate authorities should conduct the investigation and do their duty without the intervention of any party whatsoever. I would like this affair to be over, however, and the concomitant tension dispelled.

[Raz] It has been implied that this affair is likely to have political ramifications. Do you share this assessment?

[Shamir] No, I fear nothing like that. I do not consider this to be a possibility; but even if I did, what could I do?

[Raz] Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister.

Shamir Views Ramifications of Gulf Crisis

PM0709093590 Madrid ABC in Spanish 4 Sep 90 pp 26-27

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Isabel San Sebastian in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [San Sebastian] You have stated on several occasions that Israel is outside the Gulf conflict. Under what conditions would it be prepared to take part?

[Shamir] No. We have no interest in taking part in this conflict because we have nothing to do with it. After all, this confrontation began with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. We played no part in that invasion and have no interest in playing any part now. It could happen, however, that Israel could find itself involved in the confrontation if Iraq attacks us—for being Israel and in order to serve its interests, with no more reason than that.

Iraqi propaganda tries to portray Israel as an active participant in the blockade against Iraq. It has even spread lies such as that Israeli pilots are taking part in the U.S. force wearing U.S. military uniforms. These are clumsy lies. The Americans are doing everything possible to explain to the whole world and, in particular, to the nations of the Near East that Israel is not involved in this matter, for reasons which everybody can understand; in order to prove that this is not an Arab-Israeli confrontation and to retain the support of the moderate Arab countries which are supporting and reinforcing the U.S. operation in the Gulf area.

Relations With United States

[San Sebastian] Is this deliberate distancing by Israel the result of an agreement with the United States and with other Western countries?

[Shamir] I do not believe it is necessary to have a special agreement on this, but I believe that it is in the interest of the United States and other Western countries for Israel not to take part.

[San Sebastian] Have there been specific talks on the Gulf crisis with the U.S. Government and with European governments?

[Shamir] Of course. There are always talks. Contacts are made and people talk and try to analyze the situation. After all, we are here, we live in this region, and we know it very well, but for now Israel's direct participation in this confrontation between Iraq and the Western world has not been discussed.

[San Sebastian] And has there been any contact with the moderate countries—in particular, with Egypt?

[Shamir] We have a peace treaty with Egypt and we have embassies. There are talks with them, as with all the countries in the world, but this is nothing special or extraordinary.

[San Sebastian] To what extent will the Gulf crisis influence Israel's relations with the Arab world?

[Shamir] It is obvious that it will influence them. Everything that happens in the Arab world interests Israel and influences relations between our country and the Arab countries. As far as I am concerned, I would like to maintain peaceful relations with the whole Arab world, and now, for the first time, I believe that perhaps this will be easier, because a large part of the Arab world has finally realized that there are dangers in the Near East that must be averted and dispelled...and that to this end it would be best to make peace with Israel.

[San Sebastian] Is it true, as some Israeli news media report, that your government is pressing the United States to finish off Saddam Husayn for good?

[Shamir] Not at all. It is an illusion to believe that a small country like Israel can press the United States. They have their policy and their interests. There are contacts between the United States and Israel, of course, but since Israel is not taking part directly in this operation, the contacts concerning it are not particularly close. The reports to which you referred stem from Iraqi propaganda, which has taken the line that the whole deployment by the Americans in the Persian Gulf is aimed at serving and protecting Israeli interests. Lies.

[San Sebastian] Saddam Husayn has made his withdrawal from Kuwait conditional on the Israeli Army's withdrawal from Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon, arguing that there are also UN resolutions (242 and 338) urging Israel to withdraw from there. That idea was also expressed recently by King Husayn of Jordan. What can you tell us about this?

[Shamir] That is an absurdity. In the course of its existence, the UN Security Council has passed hundreds of resolutions, and common elements could be found in all of them. It is absurd, however, to seek to draw parallels between the resolution demanding Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and Resolutions 242 or 338. Israel has never invaded any country. Palestine never existed as a state; it is something that the PLO wishes to create now. [answer ends]

For the first time in the interview Yitzhaq Shamir showed annoyance, although he soon changed his indignant tone for a rather self-satisfied and ironic tone when answering the following question. [ABC notation]

PLO and Crisis

[San Sebastian] What is your opinion of the conduct of the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat in this crisis?

[Shamir] Everybody has seen the attitude adopted by the PLO and the stance adopted by 'Arafat in the conflict. They have been overtly pro-Iraqi. As a result, 'Arafat is now openly at odds with Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, among others. 'Arafat and the PLO have shown that they are not an interlocutor with whom you can discuss the serious solutions which must be reached in this region.

[San Sebastian] Does that mean that the peace plan for the occupied territories and the Palestinian population in Israel will be arrested and to some extent buried by the Gulf conflict?

[Shamir] The problem of the Palestinians exists, and I do not believe that the Gulf crisis will arrest it. The Palestinians exist, they existed before the crisis, and they will exist after it. Sooner or later, this problem will have to be resolved. We are prepared to try to reach a peaceful solution, but we maintain that the PLO cannot be an interlocutor in that effort because it opposes peace with Israel. The Palestinians are one of the peoples existing between Israel and the Arab world, but not the only one. Even before the creation of the State of Israel, there was a dispute over our state's borders, and that dispute must be resolved in accordance with the Camp David agreements, through negotiation between Israel and the Arab countries surrounding it, with the Palestinian population as the third interlocutor.

King Husayn

[San Sebastian] How do you assess King Husayn's role in this crisis?

[Shamir] King Husayn is in a very difficult and delicate position. He is aware of the real situation but, since he is being pressured by Iraq on the one hand and by his own population on the other, he is very interested in finding a solution which would be acceptable to the United States and Britain on the one hand and to Iraq on the other. Jordan is a very unstable country, in which the mostly Palestinian population tends to support the PLO's orders. Under these conditions, King Husayn is trying to save his prestige and possibly something more—his throne.

[San Sebastian] Do you believe that a solution which would satisfy the various contending parties is possible?

[Shamir] It is very difficult. In any event, I am giving nobody advice.

[San Sebastian] Is Jordan still a "casus belli" for Israel?

[Shamir] Of course. The Iraqi Army's presence in Jordan would represent a grave danger for us. It would indicate that Saddam Husayn was organizing an attack on Israel and would force us to act accordingly.

[San Sebastian] Do you believe that Iraq could launch an attack on Israel in order to regain the support of the moderate Arab countries, which seem to have cold-shouldered it?

[Shamir] It would be the only logical reason which could lead Saddam Husayn to perpetrate such an an attack.

[San Sebastian] The U.S. and Israeli intelligence services have been criticized for not forecasting the Iraqi attack on Kuwait. Is it possible that an attack by Baghdad could take them by surprise?

[Shamir] I believe that our intelligence services could warn us of an attack, but I am not certain. It is a fact that no intelligence service knew anything of the Iraqi attack on Kuwait.

It is a proven fact. It is not the first instance. At other times in our history with the Arab countries they have taken us by surprise with an attack, and it could happen again; but we are prepared to meet any eventuality.

[San Sebastian] Some Israeli military analysts stated at the beginning of this crisis that nobody could defeat Saddam Husayn's army with conventional weapons.

Senior Pentagon officials, however, maintain that with the U.S. military strength deployed in the Persian Gulf area they can rapidly overcome Iraqi resistance. Does Israel know something the U.S. Government does not?

[Shamir] I do not believe that it is our military experts' job to tell the Americans how they can defeat the Iraqis. I personally am no military expert and therefore cannot assist in this task.

Defeat Iraq

[San Sebastian] Can Israel defeat Iraq?

[Shamir] We are not interested in starting wars with Iraq, but if we are attacked we will defend ourselves.

[San Sebastian] If the United States seeks Israel's strategic or tactical assistance to free its hostages in Iraq or Kuwait, would Israel be prepared to give it?

[Shamir] It seems to me a rather fanciful hypothesis, but we would always be prepared to talk with the United States if it raises a problem of that kind with us.

[San Sebastian] Do you think that a diplomatic solution to the Gulf conflict is possible?

[Shamir] Categorical answers cannot be given. Everything depends on the meaning given to the term "diplomatic solution." If Saddam Husayn withdraws from Kuwait and resigns, it could be a diplomatic solution. "Do you not think so?" the Israeli prime minister added, with an enigmatic smile on his lips.

[San Sebastian] What would be the outcome desired by Israel?

[Shamir] We wish to see peace reign in the Near East. We are opposed to any kind of military confrontation because we like peace and, moreover, we have other problems. We are engrossed in absorbing a large number of Jews—emigrants from the Soviet Union—who must be settled in Israel. We wish to bring together the whole Jewish people in this land. To achieve this we need many years of peace.

[San Sebastian] Will it be easier for Israel to implement its settlement policy, which has caused so much controversy in the Western world because of the creation of new settlements in the occupied territories?

[Shamir] There is no controversy between us and the United States. It has given us considerable support in this operation. There are some marginal problems concerning the settlement sites for the thousands of Soviet Jews, but we have already clearly said that we will settle them within Israel's recognized borders. We will not put them in the occupied territories, because both the Americans and the Soviets have asked us not to.

[San Sebastian] Mr. Shamir, what is your personal view of this Gulf conflict and the prospects for resolving it?

[Shamir] I believe that it must be resolved and that force must be ended. Everything must be resolved through peaceful negotiation, not by force. That must be the guiding principle.

Possible Alternatives

[San Sebastian] Do you consider it possible to oust the Iraqi Army from Kuwait through negotiation?

[Shamir] If Iraq accepts that, why not?

[San Sebastian] And if it does not accept, would it be legitimate to allow Iraq to annex Kuwait?

[Shamir] I do not believe so.

[San Sebastian] So would it then be necessary to resort to force?

[Shamir] That is not for me to decide. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu on Response to Gulf Crisis

PM0609181090

[Editorial Report] London BBC Television Network in English at 2130 GMT on 5 September in its "Newsnight" program carries a recorded interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by correspondent Peter Snow during a report on Israel's reaction to U.S. aid to Arab countries during the Gulf Crisis.

Snow asks, "Do you think there is a need here for America, in looking at the restructuring of its relations with Middle Eastern states, to look more generously at Israel, or should it be expecting much more of Israel?" Netanyahu replies, "Well, you know that we are facing the same threats and in fact, in some cases even worse threats than some of the Arab countries that are facing Iraq. Iraq, Saddam Husayn has threatened to incinerate half of Israel and he is organizing accordingly. So the first request that we have had is to enhance Israel's deterrence capability against Iraq which incidentally, I think, serves the purposes of Arab states in the region as well. But equally the flow of vast weapons to Arab states could be used—in fact has been used in the past in coalitions, Arab coalitions—against us and we cannot rule out such future coalitions. So both to deter Iraq, and to deter any future Arab coalition—that is, to have peace—I think that right now what Israel needs is at least an equal amount of support and certainly qualitative support as well."

Snow asks, "You're saying you want more weapons?" Netanyahu replies, "Well we've asked for additional arms. As you know, the United States has decided to sell arms to Saudi Arabia and a few other countries that are facing Iraq, but also in a state of war with us. And we have asked for additional weapons, that's true.

Snow says, "Mr. Netanyahu, what would you say about what Mr. Baker said today when he talked about the need, as he put it, for the solution to this crisis, after it's over—if there is a solution—for it to be a springboard for revived efforts to resolve the conflict between Israel and its Palestinian-Arab neighbors." Netanyahu replies, "I don't think he exactly put it that way. I think he said that once this crisis is over, he will start to try to, I think he used the word jumpstart the process. But I don't think one should link the two and I'll tell you why: Saddam Husayn is trying to link the two, he's trying to somewhow say that his aggression against Kuwait is somehow tantamount to Israel's defensive war in 1967 against a coalition of Arab states that was out to annihilate us. I think there are two things that are wrong with accepting this equation. The first thing is that what it does is allow Saddam Husayn to divert the international attention that is focused very strongly against him to the Arab-Israeli issue, and to get this kind of Arab-Israeli spectacle, a carnival, on the road so he gets off the map. That would be a very big mistake to fall into his hands. The second is, I think, a much deeper issue that goes beyond Israel. There is an elementary thing in international law and international politics in the affairs of nations. And that is that we have conflicts. But when we decide how to settle conflicts, we must distinguish between the aggressor, between the attacker and the attacked. And if we lose sight of that major distinction, we lose sight of the moral principle that guides nations and conflicts. And I think that would be the second casualty of allowing Saddam Husayn to have his way with trying to shift things towards Israel."

Snow asks, "Mr. Netanyahu, briefly to finish with: There's talk by Mr. Baker of new security structures, in which America might have to leave some troops in the Middle East. What do you think should be the scope of all that?" Netanyanhu says, "Well, I think that we should leave that to the Americans because we've just said that at least the Gulf crisis is not our direct issue. When this situation settles down we are facing a new world: We are facing a world where we used to have the Soviet Union on one side and the United States on the other side keeping more or less a kind of unstead—and in fact often unstable—peace in the Middle East, but a kind of division of responsibility. That no longer exists. What we really have here in the receding waters of the superpowers, at least one superpower, is the emergence of poison mushrooms. So far today we have the first Saddam, but if Saddam were to disappear, if this threat were to be removed, we have other countries in the Middle East like Libya, like Syria and others with ballistic missiles, with chemical weapons, with ambitions that do not fall much behind Saddam's ambitions. We have to find new says to address this threat, and this is a problem that indeed, I think, faces the entire world."

Opposes U.S.-Saudi Arms Sales

TA0509122190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Sep 90 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] Aipac [America Israel Public Affairs Committee] and other pro-Israel lobbying groups must fight proposed U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia, because they pose a threat to Israel and create greater instability in the region, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told Israel Bonds leaders in Jerusalem yesterday.

He mocked the ability of Arab nations to even use the sophisticated weaponry the U.S. and other nations sell them: "How can one expect a Saudi Arabian to be a fighter pilot when they haven't yet invented a Saudi bricklayer?"

Pro-Israel lobbying groups, particularly in the U.S., must also ensure that the PLO is not allowed to restore its now tarnished image, Netanyahu said.

The PLO is no longer the "sacred cow" of the West, now that Yasir 'Arafat has backed Saddam Husayn he continued. "(The PLO) has been wounded, but we must make sure it is killed, otherwise it will start grazing again," Netanyahu said.

If Israeli government and Diaspora Jewish leaders play their cards right, the Persian Gulf crisis could prove to be a boon to Israel, he added.

But the danger also exists, cautioned Netanyahu, that Arab states may demand a price for their cooperation with the U.S. that will largely fall on Israel's shoulders to pay.

Israel may find itself "thrown to the wolves" after the crisis cools down, Netanyahu warned. "That is what we will be fighting when the crisis settles," he added.

Ben-Aharon on 'Eradication' of Iraqi Threat

TA0209185890 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor; on 2 September in Ben-Aharon's Jerusalem office—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Director General, how does Jerusalem this evening view the waiting period imposed on the Gulf crisis?

[Ben-Aharon] That is something involving the two sides to the crisis in the Persian Gulf, and I think the waiting derives from attempts to search for a political-diplomatic solution. The UN secretary general visited the area, apparently without achieving results. There are efforts by some Arab leaders to achieve some sort of compromise. We are still not seeing any progress on that level. Perhaps the summit meeting between the U.S. President and the USSR president will produce something.

[Ganor] Where is this waiting period leading, in Jerusalem's view?

[Ben-Aharon] We do not have a view on the matter. We would like the threat deriving from Saddam Husayn's action to be eradicated. We are not the ones to determine how this will be done because this is a confrontation between him and the entire international community, led by the United States. We hope it will end without bloodshed and with the eradication of the potential for damage existing in Iraq under President Saddam Husayn.

[Ganor] Is the eradication of the potential for damage you are pointing to possible through diplomatic activity and not war?

[Ben-Aharon] As long as there is even the slightest chance, we will support a settlement which is not achieved through violence and bloodshed.

[Ganor] Mr. Director General, is the summit meeting between Bush and Gorbachev a beginning to the solution?

[Ben-Aharon] I believe that it contains the potential to achieve a solution, because something unprecedented since World War II is taking place: Both superpowers are positioned on the same side of the fence in the face of an illegal act—and I would almost say, an act of piracy—by an irresponsible leader. If the two work together we could witness a new order in the international arena which would also include a chance for an era of stability in the world.

[Ganor] Will that stability also reflect on the Middle East, including Israel?

[Ben-Aharon] I hope so. I would not say that everything is just fine. In the past, our experience in joint efforts by the two superpowers was not always good news, but if they manage this time to overcome the damage caused by Saddam Husayn's actions I believe it will be welcomed by the region and the entire world.

Papers Consider Issues in Levi's U.S. Talks

TA0309124290

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ, MA'ARIV, and 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 3 September report on various aspects of Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to the United States this week against the backdrop of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar, writing on page A3 of HA'ARETZ, says that "Jerusalem believes Foreign Minister David Levi and Secretary of State James Baker will deal mainly with mutual political and security coordination on the Gulf crisis in their meeting on 5 September."

He adds that in President Bush's message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last week, the U.S. President "suggested closer bilateral coordination 'to avoid future misunderstandings.' Political sources believe that the President thus referred to Shamir's remarks about a 'preemptive war,' a phrase that upset the administration. The message did not mention the need to raise the level of strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States.

"During his meeting with Baker, Levi will ask to move up the date for supplying various military items Israel had requested from the United States.

"Jerusalem expects Baker to inform Levi of a formula that will permit the United States to underwrite a $400-million loan earmarked for immigration absorption. The formula will guarantee that the money will not be used for settlement operations beyond the Green Line.

"Levi will inform Baker that the government adheres to its May 1989 peace initiative and is prepared to implement all of its components as soon as possible. He plans to make it clear that Israel will not make do with the implementation of the clause on elections in the territories alone, but will insist, against the backdrop of the conflict with Iraq, on the need for simultaneous action to end the state of war with the Arab countries."

Avner Regev writes on page 2 of 'AL HAMISHMAR : "Senior Jerusalem political sources believe that the Levi visit to Washington will offer the Americans an opportunity to demonstrate their determination to make progress in the Israeli-Palestinian political process. The United States also wishes to signal to the Palestinians that Saddam Husayn will not be their salvation and that they must forsake him and move toward support for the United States.

"These sources added that during this visit, administration officials in Washington will likewise want to prove that the Gulf crisis did not significantly improve U.S.-Israeli relations, although it did bring about a certain change in U.S. thinking, making it now more amenable to Israel's position that it is necessary to end the state of war between Israel and the Arab countries in parallel with the initiative regarding elections in the territories.

"They noted that if the Gulf crisis leaves Saddam Husayn safely in place, it will create an opening for an imminent war in which Israel will be involved in spite of itself. This will offer a solution only to the Kuwaiti and Saudi problems, but not to Middle East problems. They maintain that the Americans must terminate Saddam Husayn's rule and at the same time bring an end to the development of and infrastructure for nuclear and chemical weapons in Iraq to make sure they are not directed against Israel at some future point."

Avino'am Bar-Yosef, writing on page A2 of MA'ARIV, says: "Israeli security sources made it plain yesterday that so far there have been no reports on an allegedly promised $1-billion U.S. arms deal to offset the weapons funneled into moderate Arab countries.

"Jerusalem is concerned by the leaks to THE NEW YORK TIMES on the matter, and political sources have conjectured that this might have been an attempt by certain Pentagon elements to divert attention from the weapons given to the Arabs and an attempt to appease U.S. Jewish organizations that fear an imbalance.

"According to these estimates, THE NEW YORK TIMES report refers to deals that had already been struck with the United States, the fulfillment of which Israel wants expedited. Israel pointed out that the deliberations on increased military aid have not yet been concluded."

Defense Minister To Visit U.S. 'Next Week'

TA0709084190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens will leave for the United States next week. Mr. Arens has been invited to attend a conference of the Washington Center for Near East Policy, where he will lecture about the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that it is possible that Mr. Arens will hold other meetings as well.

Atomic Energy Agency Official Visits

On Regional Tour

TA0609200990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Hans Martin Blix, director general of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and a former Swedish foreign minister, visited Israel yesterday. The visit lasted only 24 hours and was not given any publicity. Blix has been touring other countries in the region—including Iran, but excluding Iraq—in anticipation of the meeting scheduled for Vienna next week on Egypt's proposal calling for the implementation of previous IAEA resolutions about the enforcement of controls on nuclear development in Israel. Blix conferred with members of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, the cabinet secretary, and the Foreign Ministry's director general, among others. The topic of his talks was the nuclear aspect of the arms race in the region in light of the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

Ne'eman Evaluates Visit

TA0709080690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman says the International Atomic Energy Commission is showing more understanding for Israel's position and concerns as a result of the Gulf crisis. This emerged during a recent visit of the commission's chairman to Israel.

Professor Ne'eman recalled that a great many restrictions were placed on Israel in the nuclear field after the Israeli Air Force destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor, but the chairman's visit was a step toward Israel's reacceptance into the removal of these restrictions, Ne'eman said.

Peres, Rabin Named to Knesset Committee

TA0609121890 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 6 Sep 90 p A10

[Report by Amnon Levi]

[Excerpts] Alignment Knesset Members [MK's] Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin will join the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee next week. They will replace MK's Shevah Weiss and Avraham Burg, who have agreed to resign. An official statement to this effect was issued yesterday by the spokeswoman for the Alignment Knesset faction. [passage omitted]

In approximately one month, when the Knesset winter session begins, all the Alignment members of the committee will have to be chosen again.

Two Youths Believed To Cross Jordanian Border

Missing Since 'Last Week'

TA0309203490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Deputy Commander Shlomo Aharonishki, commander of the Negev District Police, has said that the police tend to believe that the two boys from Jerusalem, who have been missing since last week, have crossed the border into Jordan. He told this to our correspondent in the south Nisim Qeynan.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has appealed to Jordan, through the International Red Cross, to find out whether Hanan'el She'ar-Yashuv and Li'or Mizrahi have been found there.

Return 9 Sep

TA0609101190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Li'or Mizrahi and Hanan'el She'ar-Yashuv were returned from Jordan over the Allenby Bridge this morning. The two were handed over to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and were rushed from the site in a military car. The boys will be interrogated today by the Jerusalem Police.

The Foreign Ministry had learned about their forthcoming release as early as yesterday. The FRG and U.S. Embassies in Israel, with other friendly elements, mediated in the affair. This was reported by our correspondents Arye Golan, 'Ofra Nehmad, and Moshe Nussbaum.

West Bank Universities Closure Order Extended

TA0309110490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] The universities of Bi'r Zayt, Hebron, and al-Najah in Judaea and Samaria will not reopen. The closure order against them has been extended by another three months, until the end of November. Last weekend the defense minister approved the reopening of Bethlehem University. Apparently, other universities in Judaea and Samaria will not reopen in the near future.

5 Sep Incidents in Territories Reported

TA0609134990

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 6 September in a report by Jon Immanuel on page 12 says: "Four Palestinians have received life terms for murdering an Arab village leader, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] announced yesterday.

"The four men, sentenced in the Nabulus military court on Tuesday, were Hassan al-Karim, Ahmad Salah, Salah Abu-Shafi'a and Hassan al-Akra. They were convicted of shooting Mustafa Abu Bakr, 41, the mukhtar of Biddiya on October 6, 1988, and wounding his two teenaged sons, the IDF said.

"Palestinian sources said villagers in Biddiya, which straddles the Trans-Samaria road and is close to several Jewish villages, suspected Abu Bakr of selling land to Israelis.

"Al-Karim had also been charged with stealing weapons and ammunition from various places of employment in Israel between 1985 and 1987. One of those weapons was used to kill Abu Bakr, the IDF said.

"The 1,000th day of the intifada yesterday, which also marked the first day of school for many children, passed almost without incident, despite calls for festive protest marches by the uprising leadership.

"A demonstration was reported in Qabatiyah, near Janin, and the village was placed under curfew, local sources said. Soldiers reportedly raided Buruqin village and made arrests.

"The IDF reported that a Kiryat Arba' woman, an Ethiopian immigrant, was slightly injured by a stone in Hebron, and a soldier was struck by a stone in Ramallah. Two cars were torched in East Jerusalem; one had an Israeli license plate and the other a West Bank plate, local sources said.

"Local sources said that a 16-year-old boy, Qurshi Hamarni from Ya'bad, reported wounded Tuesday night after being chased by soldiers during a demonstration, was taken to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem suffering from a broken skull, indicating that he had fallen from a roof and was not shot.

"Yesterday, 195,000 elementary school children began the year's studies in the West Bank. Intermediate and senior high schools are to be opened in stages during the next two weeks. Gaza students up to age 13 began school Tuesday.

"Israeli authorities warned that schools could be closed again, as they were for six months during 1988-89, if there are violent disturbances.

"In Hebron, many Palestinians appeared confused by the orders of the "Unified Leadership" in its latest leaflet to keep shops open all day to mark the intifada's 1,000th day, and some began pulling down shutters at the customary hour, 1 p.m.

"It appeared that many had read only the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaflet, which did not call for special celebrations to mark the day.

"The Islamic Jihad distributed a leaflet calling for a general strike today, to protest the U.S. presence in the Gulf.

"Defense Minister Moshe Arens yesterday toured Ramallah and the nearby al-Jalazun and al-Am'ari refugee camps."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 6 September in a report by Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er on page A3 notes: "Palestinian sources reported disturbances and cases of stones being thrown at soldiers throughout the Gaza Strip, adding that four residents sustained injuries during clashes with IDF troops. On the other hand, military sources reported that the 1,000th day of the intifadah passed without any irregular incidents. The Army asserted that schools operated as normal. The hospitals did not report any casualties.

"The magnetic identity cards that were issued to the Gaza Strip residents expire at the end of August. A representative of the IDF spokesman at the Southern Command stated that all residents who had been issued magnetic cards must report to the Civil Administration and renew them. The magnetic card accords its bearer free passage within Israel. A firebomb was thrown at an IDF patrol in Janin on 4 September; there were no casualties and no damage was caused. Palestinian sources reported clashes with soldiers in Shuwaykah near Tulkarm and in the Tulkarm refugee camp. The clashes ended without injuries."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 6 September in a report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami and ITIM on page 2 states: "The Nabulus military court imposed a nine-year jail sentence on two residents of the Tulkarm refugee camp. The two defendants had hurled firebombs at an army vehicle in the refugee camp.

"'Abd-al-Rantazi, one of the leaders of Hamas, was released from a Gaza prison. He had been arrested several times in the past, after being involved in subversive activities as part of the Hamas Movement. He was convicted in 1989 of founding the movement at the beginning of the intifadah and preparing the draft of its first leaflet."

King Husayn, Delegation Return Home From Baghdad

JN0609164090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned to Amman this evening following a one-day visit to the Republic of Iraq, where he held talks with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the brotherly relations between the two sisterly countries, the current developments of the Gulf crisis, and the results of his majesty's tour of several Arab and European states.

His majesty was welcomed by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Their Highnesses Princes Faysal Bin-al-Husayn and 'Ali Bin al-Husayn, as well as the Senate president, the chief chamberlain, his majesty's personal secretary, and the chief of staff.

Returning in the company of his majesty were Prime Minister Mudar Badran, as well as al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite court; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, his majesty the king's political adviser; and Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Libya's Al-Kharrubi Arrives With Message

JN0609115990 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] A Libyan envoy arrived in Amman today carrying a message to his majesty the king from Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The envoy, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, and member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command [as heard], was welcomed at the airport by the minister of information, Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, and head of the Political Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Col. al-Kharrubi is accompanied by a delegation comprising a number of Libyan officials.

Meets With Hasan

JN0609174190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at noon today Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, and the accompanying delegation. During the meeting they reviewed bilateral relations and recent developments in the Gulf region. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan hoped that a peaceful solution to this crisis will come about within the Arab framework, and in line with international law and regulations in a manner that secures the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Arab region. His highness also indicated that the Arab relations should be returned to the atmosphere of brotherhood, affirming the importance of ending the crisis through peaceful means and sparing the region the dangers of military confrontation.

The Libyan official reviewed the role played by the Libyan leader to resolve the dispute between Arab states, affirming the importance of cooperation between Jordan and Libya to achieve accord among Arab brothers, to deny the colonialist powers the opportunity of exploiting the Arab misunderstanding. Col. al-Kharrubi affirmed the need for seeking a political solution and intensifying efforts and consultations within the Arab framework in order to reach a unified Arab solution that protects Arab dignity and maintains the Arab nation's bright image.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din.

Paper Urges Resistance to Baker Alliance Plan

JN0609102690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Sep 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Return to the Policy of Alliances"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's rapid efforts to contain the Gulf crisis are virtually the only sign of hope for preventing the fire and curbing the danger of foreign presence in the region. After his tour of several Arab and foreign capitals to discuss the best ways to contain the crisis, his majesty visited Baghdad yesterday. The visit is a culmination of Jordan's remarkable diplomatic activity. Undoubtedly, his majesty's visit to Baghdad in particular takes on extraordinary importance now that the Western voices calling for war and starvation have grown loud. His majesty's meeting with his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is a step toward eliminating the current dangers in the Gulf.

Jordan's repeated warnings against foreign intervention and internationalization of a purely Arab issue now prove more serious than ever before.

Now that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker announced his country's intention to establish a military alliance in the region with a permanent U.S. presence in the Gulf, one of the most important objectives of the NATO buildup in the eastern Arabian Peninsula has become public, and some aspects of the long-term U.S. scheme against one of the world's most abundant oil areas have become manifest.

We said from the outset, and while the forces of the U.S. invasion were being naively welcomed, that the forces flooding into the Gulf did not come because they love the people of this or that emirate, or to defend this or that Arab country, but to lay their hand on the Arab oil wealth and, consequently, control the production and prices of this strategic commodity.

James Baker's proposal, therefore, must serve as an alarm to all, whether those who invited the troops or those who provided the political cover, especially since this rude proposal tries to take our countries back to the defunct policy of military alliances, in an age when this policy has objectively ended.

As Jordan continues its sincere efforts to contain the danger resulting from a series of wrong steps and small, ill-devised calculations, it wishes to draw the attention of all Arab capitals, regardless of their positions, to the gravity of the U.S. secretary of state's proposal and to the horrible destiny awaiting this nation if this U.S. scheme is to be passed. We are certain that the Arabs will strongly resist this scheme and repulse this looming danger as they repulsed similar colonialist alliances in the past.

Soviet Ambassador Reacts to Criticism of Position

JN0609124990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Sep 90 pp 1, 16

[Text] Soviet Ambassador in Amman Yuriy Gryadunov has stressed that the Helsinki summit between Soviet Leader Gorbachev and U.S. President Bush will be a very important point in the development of events in the Arabian Gulf. He said that his country will insist on the need to resolve this crisis politically, not militarily.

He said the Soviet Union seeks political detente and will continue its efforts to attain this objective, although the Gulf crisis is not moving toward detente, and that the military escalation is significant and continuous. He added: The intensive U.S. military presence is clear evidence of a preference for a military explosion.

In an exclusive interview with AL-DUSTUR, he said that, from the first moments of the crisis his country's position was based on the preference for an Arab solution. The Soviet ambassador said: We still take this position and we will be pleased if the Arabs succeed in reaching an Arab solution. He pointed out that the Soviet Union values His Majesty King Husayn's efforts in this respect.

He said: Despite various considerations, I think that the Iraqi measures in Kuwait do not justify the use of force to resolve the Gulf crisis. There can be no means to resolve the crisis other than political and diplomatic ones.

He also said his country has suggested more than once holding an international conference to discuss all issues and crises in the Middle East. Therefore, we express our regret over the negative positions held by the British and Israeli Governments on Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's proposal on the Middle East.

Replying to a question, he said: I cannot give the Soviet Union's position on the French proposal that the economic blockade on Iraq should include an airspace embargo. This proposal is being discussed by the Soviet leadership.

He said the Soviet Union believes that the blockade on Iraq should not include foodstuffs and medicines. From a humanitarian viewpoint, we cannot prevent foodstuffs and medical supplies from reaching the Iraqi people.

He added: We would never approve of the starvation of the Iraqi people. If Iraq requests these materials from the Soviet Union, the Soviet Government will study its request very seriously.

On whether he saw any positive elements in Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative, Gryadunov said: From a personal viewpoint, I can say that the idea of withdrawal of all foreign forces from the occupied territories is good in principle, because the Soviet Union opposes occupation of land. Occupation is occupation. However, we must look for the possibility of implementation, which depends on the will of all sides concerned.

He added that the cooperation and friendship agreement with Iraq has not been abrogated, yet this depends on how events develop.

With respect to the fact that the Soviet Union's position in the UN Security Council is questionable and raises criticism especially here in Jordan, he said: I think that the criticism aimed at the Soviet Union is a result of a misunderstanding of its principled position, which is not based on transient or opportunistic considerations. He said: His country is against occupation of other people's territory. It is wrong to view the Soviet Union's position as supporting one state against another at this particular time, since the Soviet Union is acting in compliance with international law and the UN Charter.

Moreover, he said that once people here and elsewhere understand the Soviet position, these criticisms will vanish. He pointed out that the current situation in the Gulf requires extraordinary steps to maintain peace and prevent the use of force to impose military solutions, because such actions if employed will sow the seeds of hostility and conflict once again.

He added: We attach special importance to the role played by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council because they shoulder a special responsibility toward peace in the Middle East and the entire world.

Paper Comments on Thatcher Remarks to Commons

JN0709085190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Sep 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Thatcher Continues To Beat the Drums"]

[Text] In an address to the British House of Commons yesterday, the British prime minister gave herself free rein and unreservedly called for war, blockade, and use of force. It was a scene reminiscent of the ones staged by the advocates of the early crusades who continually beat the drums of war and launched repeated calls similar to those made by Mrs. Thatcher now, until the crusades finally took place.

It seems that this elderly woman who has occupied the seat of power longer than she should has begun to lose her memory, especially when talking about international law and the UN Security Council resolutions demanding a trade embargo on Iraq, as well as other similar resolutions. However, when she talks about the Palestine question, she uses double standards and twisted logic, failing to show the least signs of remorse or hesitation.

Although beating the British drums of war no longer frightens the Arabs, who defeated the empire in 1956, we would like to see this woman stop her verbal agitation and tell us the reason for this unprecedented Thatcherist fit of rage. Perhaps then she would be able to convince someone in this region of her arguments and to explain her logic, which is void of reason and personal balance.

Therefore, we would like to remind the British prime minister—if her memory fails her—that the colonialist era is gone for good, and that the logic of fleets and warships has been buried forever. We also remind her that her continued beating of the drums of war will frighten no one in this region. After all this, the old lady must realize that not all Arabs are spineless like the ones she knows and for whom she actually feels no respect.

There is visible opposition in the House of Commons, within the quarters of the ruling Conservative Party, and even in the British Defense Office, one way or another, to the trend toward war and the military obsession taking a grip of the mind of this woman. This makes us more convinced that the British prime minister's remarks and daily obscenities are matters that have nothing to do with politics, and that they reflect anything but reason, wisdom, and balance.

Editor Questions Saudi Need for Foreign Troops

JN0609163390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Commenting on the statement by Saudi Defense Minister Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the INA international affairs editor has said: We are astonished at the Saudi defense minister's statements on demonstrating power and his missile force in case Iraq uses chemical weapons, as he claimed in his statements, at a time when no Iraqi statement has been issued on or has threatened to use them against Saudi Arabia. He added: However, it seems to us that the traitors, who are sheltering behind the bayonets of the Americans and Zionism, can no longer distinguish between positions and are making statements through which they seek to create a psychological balance for themselves, after their faith in the people of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]—who look with scorn and disdain upon the occupation forces brought by the defense minister—has been shaken.

He added: If Sultan or the betrayer of the two holy mosques have such military powers, then why have they brought this size of U.S. and other foreign forces? He added: The evildoers and the defilers of the sanctities of the two holy mosques cannot defend their honor and that of the Najd and Hejaz people, who will dump them in the ash heap of history. Their forces, missiles, and territory have become occupied by the Americans, and they have lost all the constituents of sovereignty and authority. In any case, we are free to choose the means to defend ourselves against the U.S. aggression.

Donations to Iraq Exempted From Taxes

JN0609064790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—The government has decided to exempt all grants and donations offered to Iraq by organizations, unions, and charitable societies from all tariffs and taxes.

Paper Details Reasons for Klibi Resignation

JN0509064790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Sep 90 pp 1,5

[By staff reporters Lamis K. Andoni and P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] The resignation of Chedli Klibi as secretary-general of the Arab League was not surprising to many Arab diplomats close to the intricacies that have emerged in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2. Rather, as one diplomat phrased it, "the only surprise is that why it took so long, given Klibi's dilemma of having to bow to pressure from certain blocs in the Arab League and execute things he personally opposes."

The resignation of Klibi, announced in Tunis Tuesday [4 September], is also another major turn in the schisms and shifting alliances that the Gulf crisis has brought out among the Arab ranks and the diplomatic casualty will not be the last either, according to diplomats.

At the same time, by announcing his resignation, Klibi has not only underlined the deep split that characterises the Arab World today but also pulled the rug from under the feet of Saudi Arabia and Egypt in their efforts to assume a dominating position in the Arab World by raising Arab and international debate over the Arab League and sought to preempt Saudi-Egyptian moves to push through the final decision on moving the Arab League headquarters to the Egyptian capital from Tunisia.

According to Arab diplomat and league officials contacted in Tunis by the Jordan Times, it was a foregone conclusion that Klibi, 64, would have stepped down even before the Aug. 30 meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo.

What appeared to have prompted the resignation on Tuesday, they said, is a concerted campaign by pro-Western Arab states led by Saudi Arabia and Egypt to convene another, much more crucial, meeting of the Arab League in Cairo. The Sept. 10 meeting was originally called to finalise the issue of the transfer of Arab League headquarters to the Egyptian capital, and Klibi insisted that such an important meeting should be held in Tunisia.

"Considering the importance of the issue involved, and in light of the provisions of the Arab League charter, Klibi argued that it could not be held in Cairo but he lost against the pressure that was applied on him," said the source.

Reports from Cairo said Tuesday that Lebanon's As‘ad al-As‘ad, assistant secretary-general of the Arab League, will temporarily take over from Klibi and that the Sept. 10 meeting would be held in the Egyptian capital.

The Tunisian source noted that the issue of a successor to Klibi "is sure to raise a major controversy among those Arab states which have found themselves being drawn into the Saudi-Egyptian camp. This also appears to be one of the objectives that prompted Klibi to resign at this point in time..."

An Arab diplomat recalled that Klibi had also opposed the choice of Cairo as the venue for the Aug. 30 Arab foreign ministers' meeting.

"Klibi fiercely opposed Cairo as the venue for the meeting," said the diplomat from Tunis. "He felt that all logic dictated that it should have been held in Tunis, and Cairo did not figure anywhere in the equation except perhaps as the host of the Arab summit whose resolutions the meeting was supposed to review," the diplomat explained, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. Traditionally all meetings of the Arab League Council—which groups the foreign ministers—have always been held at the headquarters of the Arab League; in Cairo until 1979 and then in Tunis, after it was moved in the wake of Egypt's suspension from the league for its separate peace treaty with Israel.

"There were indeed technicalities involved," the diplomat conceded. "Council meetings could be held in any Arab country if circumstances warrant.

"However, in this case, there was no such mitigating circumstances to break tradition and have the ministers meet in Cairo," according to an Arab League official in Tunis. In any event, Klibi argued that the decision to convene the meeting should have the support of at least two-thirds of the 21 members of the league.

But Saudi Arabia and Egypt, "in their anxiety to turn the tide of events at the meeting, applied heavy pressure on Klibi and he had to convene the meeting in Cairo," he said. "It was as if Egypt was fighting a war and it had taken for granted that the headquarters of the league was already moved to Cairo."

Klibi, a veteran Tunisian diplomat who assumed the top job at the Arab League 10 years ago to succeed Mahmud Riyad of Egypt, "is closer to the position of the eight league members who did not attend the Cairo meeting," according to the official. "But he faced the prospect of having to be a party to something he himself did not approve of and if he had resigned before the meeting it would have been interpreted as support for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait," the official said. "On the contrary, Klibi opposes the Iraqi move in principle but, at the same time, was alarmed that the Arab League's general secretariat would not be able to play any constructive mediation role if it commits itself either way."

Another factor that contributed to Klibi's resignation, said the official, is the "opposition of Klibi himself and Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali to moving the Arab League headquarters to Cairo to placate Egypt," the official added. "But then Iraq was leading the campaign and the move appeared to have majority support until Aug. 2," when Iraq took over Kuwait, he noted. Baghdad has said it now does not believe Egypt is neutral in the Gulf crisis and that Iraq opposes the transfer of the League to Cairo.

To compound the situaton, Klibi came under heavy attack from the Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers at the Cairo meeting on Aug. 30, according to sources who attended the talks. Faruq al-Shar‘, the Syrian minister, "accused Klibi of not issuing formal invitations to all Arab League members to attend that "meeting," said one of the sources. Prince Sa‘ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, "joined al-Shar‘ to further assail Klibi for what they saw as his "lukewarm" approach to the idea of an Arab force to be deployed in Saudi Arabia," according to the source.

Klibi countered the first charge by pointing out "there was no sense in issuing formal invitations after eight members had notified the league headquarters that they would not be attending."

On the second charge, the Arab League secretary general pointed out that "it was not his business to lobby Arab states to ensure that they send troops to Saudi Arabia," according to the source. "My job is to execute the decisions of the Arab League but not to pressure any member state into doing something its sovereign government does not want to do," the source quoted the secretary-general as telling Sa‘ud and al-Shar‘. "Of course, this is a very well-founded argument but another, perhaps the most important, element was the fact that Klibi firmly believed that the Gulf crisis should be settled within an Arab framework without any foreign intervention and he was already disappointed with the Aug. 10 Arab summit's decision which endorsed the presence of the multi-national forces in Saudi Arabia," according to the source. "He believed it would undermine the basic concept of Arab unity and collective Arab action."

Among the Arab countries, only Egypt, Syria and Morocco sent forces to Saudi Arabia to deploy along with the American-led multi-national force there. This, in Klibi's view, "legitimates the international intervention in an Arab affair and he (Klibi), in his capacity as secretary general of an organisation which was essentially created to deal with Arab affairs and disputes, could not do anything to help block the internationalisation of an Arab issue."

According to the source, Klibi would have resigned "there and then" in Cairo, but "considerations that such a move would have sent the wrong signals to the Arab World and the international community" stopped him from doing so.

Another factor, although relatively less significant, which contributed to the resignation, said the official in Tunis, is that the Egyptians "appear to be acting as if the Arab League headquarters move to Cairo was a fait accompli, and they have even lined up candidates to succeed Klibi." the strongest candidate the source said, is the present deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Egypt, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

The source noted that the Egyptian anxiety was "to ensure that Cairo regains the top office at the league and resume its record of having an Egyptian as secretary-general ever since the league was created until Klibi assumed it."

Government Announces Plans To Cut Expenses

JN0609101090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6-7 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—In its continued drive to cut on spending and reduce consumption the government Wednesday announced a series of measures designed to curtail expenditures by its various departments and offices and said that cuts would be 25 per cent of the total allocated funds for the remaining part of the year.

The announcement, made in a communique issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, said that cuts of 25 per cent on expenditures will be effective as of Sept. 1 and end on Dec. 1, 1990 except for the following: medicines, school textbooks, aid to the poor and allocation for scholarships.

The announcement said that all government departments should secure prior approval from the Prime Ministry of matters concerning purchases of equipment worth more than JD 5,000 even if they had been included in the capital budget for 1990. Approval from the Prime Ministry should also be given for new construction projects, except for agricultural roads, the announcement said.

It said that after the approval has been given, coordination for the implementation of projects should be made with the general budget department.

The announcement said that cutting down on expenditure does not mean postponing payment, but genuine cuts.

The cut in government offices expenditure comes in the wake of the introduction of a good rationing system affecting three staples: sugar, milk and rice and three weeks after the government announced steps to reduce energy consumption.

On Aug. 19 the government said that public organisations were not to put on lights during day office hours nor use air conditioning in order to save energy and appealed to the public to refrain from xcessive energy consumption and to use electrical appliances only when necessary.

Since the announcement last month, lighting of streets and public squares has been cut by half and the government said other steps would be taken later in a bid to save energy, especially oil, most of which was coming from Iraq.

New Political Weekly 'The People' Launched

JN0609065190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 20

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—The first issue of the weekly political newspaper AL-AHALI [the people] was issued yesterday. Colleague Ibrahim al-'Absi is the chief editor.

The issue contained a number of political and local items and a number of interviews and articles dealing with the current Arab conditions.

We wish AL-AHALI success in serving the Jordanian and Arab reader.

Release of UK Hostages Expected 'This Month'

NC0709052790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] REUTER has cited what it described as highly placed Islamic fundamentalist sources as saying that three UK hostages held in Lebanon will be released by the end of this month. The hostages are Terry Waite, John McCarthy, and Jack Mann. REUTER says that the decision to free the hostages was made following high-level contacts between the UK and Iranian Governments.

VOM Reports Fadlallah Statement on Gulf Crisis

Views U.S. Goals in Region

NC0609155690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said that the Gulf issue was set in motion by urging from the United States. He said that Iraq's red line is not in Kuwait but in expansion toward Saudi Arabia. He pointed out that the issue for the Arabs now is how to protect themselves from one another and not from Israel.

On the U.S. action in the region, Fadlallah said that it wants to toppple all the establishments that have been created by Europe. Foremost of these are the Arab League, the Arab Cooperation Council, and the Gulf Cooperation Council. In a press statement, he ruled out the possibility of the United States waging a war, because it would foil many U.S. plans and expectations, and would turn Saddam Husayn into a legendary hero to the Arab peoples. On the effects of the Gulf situation on Lebanon, he said that Lebanon is suffering a great deal as a result of the Gulf crisis, particularly on the Economic level. He said that America does not want Lebanon to collapse, but Washington may suggest to certain countries to give Lebanon some tranfusions to keep it alive.

Hizballah Radio Reports

NC0609154290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has expressed his belief that there is some kind of a covert international conflict in the Gulf which has started to express itself in an obscure and hidden way which cannot be brought to light.

He said: We are waiting for the completion of the security plan, in which America will reorganize the situation in the Gulf similar to the way it reorganizes the situation in the entire region in accordance with its new international role. America's goal is to protect itself against accumulated tensions and uprisings in the region. These accumulated tensions and uprisings may threaten American interests in the future, in the same way that the recently-terminated cold war with the Soviet Union threatened them, Fadlallah said.

His Eminence Fadlallah added: The Arab region is experiencing discord which can be regarded as a prelude to creating new states that will devour small states. He continued: The chances of starting a war between the United States and Iraq are very meager, if not nonexistent, because America has some kind of confusion about plans. He expressed his doubts that America's goal is to overthrow Saddam, because he rendered a service to the West which no one else in the region had rendered before. This service was to stand in the way of the Iranian Islamic Republic and to act in a way that turned the Arab-Israeli conflict into an inter-Arab one, thanks to developments triggered by the Gulf war.

Lebanese Forces Organize Rally To Support Iraq

NC0609183390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces are organizing a rally in the Jubayl area tomorrow for the regional command of the Iraqi Ba'th party. The rally is to express solidarity with Iraq. A series of meetings were held recently between Rafiq Abu-Yunis, representative of the Iraqi Ba'th party regional command, and Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' and a number of Lebanese Forces officials to agree on the details of the rally, especially security measures and the stands to be declared.

The Lebanese Forces continue to receive Iraqi support and a number of Lebanese Forces fighters are still being trained in Iraq in various fields of specialization, especially in the field of aviation.

'Awn Reportedly Offers To Join Government

NC0709074990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Press sources have cited a highly placed source as saying that the issue of General Michel 'Awn will be resolved by the end of this month or the beginning of October. Current exchanges focus on the means to resolve that issue. [passage omitted]

The source noted that Gen. 'Awn had made a proposal a few hours ago. The proposal relayed by a messenger to West Beirut and then to Damascus involved five points. Among these are a government reshuffle, an agreement to hand over al-Yarzah to Gen. Lahhud within a month of that reshuffle, and action leading to the disbanding of militias within a month after al-Yarzah is handed over. This last point raises a question because it carries the risk of bringing the situation back to an earlier stage instead of proceeding on the course defined in al-Ta'if. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, REUTER has disclosed that 'Awn sent Lawyer Shakir Abu-Sulayman to Damascus a few hours ago with a proposal including 'Awn's offer to join the government on certain conditions. REUTER cited a political source as saying that 'Awn also sent emissaries to the Lebanese Forces command. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, political sources in West Beirut expect the army to continue the current preparations over the weekend so that it can be ready to implement its orders about extending the power of the state.

The sources say that the following six army brigades will be ready to undertake any mission assigned to them: the 1st, the 2d, the 6th, the 7th, the 11th, and the 11th brigades. This morning, AL-DIYAR cited sources at the Army Command's Guidance Directorate as saying that military preparations are under way, but no timetable should be announced for completing these preparations or for launching military action because this may compromise the credibility of the authorities. This is in view of previous reports that did not match reality. [passage omitted]

Press reports in West Beirut have cited well-informed sources as saying that 316 army personnel have deserted the areas under Gen. 'Awn's control since the beginning of last week.

Lahd Receives Medical Tests; No Plan To Replace

TA0509095790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Sep 90 p A4

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] Senior military sources in the north yesterday denied reports that there is a plan to replace General Antoine Lahd, the SLA [South Lebanese Army] commander, with another Lebanese officer because of his health. The sources confirmed that Lahd is undergoing routine medical tests in Israeli hospitals. He began the tests several days ago at Tel Hashomer Hospital, but there is no intention to replace him.

According to various reports, Lahd is going to be replaced by 'Aql Hashim, another SLA officer. The sources pointed out that the SLA commander has continued to carry out his duties normally. On Monday he toured the Christian township of Jazzin outside the security zone, and he continues his regular meetings with SLA commanders in the region.

The sources also denied that the SLA commander is due to leave for Europe to undergo medical treatment. They confirmed that in the past he has been treated in hospitals in Europe.

The SLA commander was gravely wounded about 18 months ago in an assassination attempt in the Christian township of Marj 'Uyun.

Clashes Resume in Eastern Beirut 5 Sep

NC0509142590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Eastern Beirut is in a state of anxiety because of the resumption of the clashes between the forces of General Michel 'Awn and the Lebanese forces. The positions on both sides came under heavy sniper and tank fire this morning. Shells reached the areas of Ra's al-Nab', al-Nuwayrah, and al-Barbir in the western area of the capital.

According to the latest security report, the two parties to the conflict are massing troops and reinforcing them with men and hardware which prompted many citizens to leave the areas of clashes for fear of a wider confrontation.

One Person Killed in Sidon Clashes 6 Sep

NC0609163790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Armed clashes between two local organizations took place in Sidon at noon today following an incident at a security roadblock. The clashes were concentrated in the areas of al-Bawwabah al-Fawqa and the Ghassan Hammud Hospital street and other adjacent streets. Key figures in the city immediately hastened to deal with the situation, and the fighting stopped after one hour. The clashes left one person dead and another wounded.

Bush Phones Al-Asad; Gulf Crisis Discussed

JN0609203190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2017 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad today received a telephone call from U.S. President George Bush. During the telephone conversation they discussed the Gulf crisis.

Officials Discuss Gulf With European Delegation

JN0609124490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] At 1100 today President Hafiz al-Asad received the European Parliament delegation led by Mr. (Roberto Furmigoti), deputy head of the European Parliament.

The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah. The meeting focused on the situation in the Gulf following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning also received the European Parliament delegation. The audience was attended by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant to the minister; Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; Muhammad Khadr, head of Western Europe Department; the Italian ambassador; and head of the EC delegation in Damascus.

During the meeting, the attendees exchanged views on the developments of the Gulf crisis, brought about by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the serious impact of this invasion on the security and stability of the region.

There was concurrence in viewpoints that strict implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions would remove further dangers from the region.

Lebanese Minister Birri Meets With Khaddam

JN0609135590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] At 1000 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Minister of Hydroelectric Resources Nabih Birri and Minister of Education 'Umar Karami.

They talked about the situation in Lebanon and the measures being taken to extend the authority of the Lebanese legitimate government throughout the Lebanese land. The vice president said Syria will continue to extend support to the Lebanese brothers in their endeavor to establish a Lebanese national accord.

Industry Minister Leads Delegation to Tunisia

JN0609175290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Damascus, 6 Sep (SANA)—Industry Minister Antoine Jubran this afternoon left Damascus for Tunisia at the head of a Syrian delegation for a visit lasting several days. Mr. Jubran will hold talks with Tunisian officials aimed at bolstering and enhancing industrial cooperation.

Israel 'Fears' Syrian-Iraqi Solidarity

JN0209175190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return" by 'Abd-al-Rahman Ghunaym]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation. If we ask ourselves a single, specific question: Who benefits from a possible military blow to destroy the industrial infrastructure in Iraq, particularly that related to war industries, in retaliation against Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait? The answer to this question is obviously clear: The only party to benefit is the usurping Zionist entity.

The problem is that this possibility is based on a grave mistake: Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. This has given foreigners the pretext to intervene. This also makes us talk about Iraqi collusion and wonder about the reality of those who played conspiratorial roles to push Iraq to undertake such an involvement.

It has been clear since the start of the unjust war between Iraq and Iran that the objective of those who instigated that war was to exhaust the resources of Iraq and Iran and get them so wrapped up that they would not be able to face Israel. It has also been clear since the end of the Iraqi-Iranian war that Israel fears that a state of solidarity will exist between Damascus and Baghdad, for which Tehran would provide the strategic depth.

Therefore, and as a first step, Israel seeks to weaken the middle link between Damascus and Tehran—that is Baghdad. If Israel is hesitating to fulfill this task on its own out of fear of what Damascus has clearly announced and emphasized—that it will confront an Israeli aggression against Iraq or any other Arab country; meaning that it wants to accelerate the achievement of Arab solidarity, which Israel fears—then it is logical for Iraq to practice solidarity with Syria and its other sisterly Arab countries, and not make a wrong move that would mass enemies around it and give Israel a historic opportunity.

However, the wrong move—we mean Iraq's move in the direction of Kuwait, a direction opposite to that which would have saved it and its sisterly countries and which would have given a motive for unity and solidarity—has already taken place. The resulting threats, which all serve Israel's aggressive and expansionist objectives, are imminent threats indeed. When Iraq's sincere brothers—who would become more capable if their resources were massed with those of Iraq's—call for rectifying the mistake, they are not embarrassing Iraq, but trying to make it, and make themselves, reach the shores of safety. They will also put themselves and Iraq in the position that the situation requires to destroy Israel's objectives and foil its schemes.

Your real friend is he who tells you the truth. This is an Arab proverb which the officials in Baghdad must remember today and act upon accordingly.

When on 2 August militant comrade Hafiz al-Asad promptly took the initiative to call for an immediate summit, he was acting toward Iraq and Kuwait as a sincere friend and a brother who felt the burdens of pan-Arab responsibility. If the immediate summit had been convened, the crisis would have been contained on the Arab level before the pains grew, before the UN Security Council was convened, before the initiative was taken on an international level by non-Arabs, and before foreign troops began pouring into the region. The catastrophe would have been snuffed in the cradle and we would have denied Israel the opportunity to benefit from this serious explosive situation in the Gulf.

Paper Suspects Intentions of Iraq Supporters

JN0109160290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Sep 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Truly Far More Than That," the paper AL-THAWRAH says in an editorial: It is no longer possible to assume that those trying to push Iraq into a corner have good intentions. They beautify stupidity and recklessness to make Iraq slide continuously into the unknown and toward a dead end leading to a tunnel of definite destruction and death.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The only sincere voice now is the one that explains to Iraq the difficult prospects awaiting it if it goes on with its intransigence and rejection of the Arab solution represented by the Cairo summit's resolution calling for an immediate, unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and succumbing to international will.

AL-THAWRAH continues: Every attempt by those surrounding Iraq to prevent it from seeing things properly is an attempt to deal a fatal blow to Iraq before it returns to its senses. They know well that the possibilities of a confrontation are almost inevitable and that the possibilities of Iraq's destruction and a blazing region are almost inevitable, too. However optimistic speculation is, no one can control the explosion and its range and expansion, and no one will be able to curb its escalation, effects, and horrible complications which will spare nobody.

How can those people be innocent or clean, when since the very beginning of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait they have been obstructing every sincere effort and every honorable pan-Arab move to contain the crisis and remove the roots that would cause it to erupt? They are trying to hamper every move in this direction and suspiciously insist on talking about a so-called diplomatic solution without any reference to the shape, content, and basis of this solution and without any reference to Iraq's withdrawal and a return to normal, taking into account that the invasion is at the root of the crisis.

The paper adds: A quick review of past events reveals that there are intentions that cannot be termed innocent lying behind the moves of these people. This proves that they have been a main factor in involving Iraq in such an ill-advised decision—which did not have to be involved in the first place—in order to get rid of it, despite all the bruises that this would leave in the body of Iraq and then the Arab nation.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Thus, to drag Iraq and the Arab nation into a new maze, they continue to advise Iraq to reject all Arab and international initiatives because they want it to reach a dead end and an absolutely unknown fate to make our nation pay a dear price for an ill-advised decision.

In its editorial, AL-THAWRAH declares: Arabs must be able to openly express their rejection of misdeeds and aggression and to rectify political misbehavior and practices having grave effects on the Arab march. Also, they must be able to do so in order to make everyone pay the price of one's mistake, decision, and recklessness and to bear the responsibility before the nation and history. No one must be allowed to involve the Arab nation with him in paying the price of others' madness and psychological complexes. Maneuvering, appeasement, and falsification stem from narrow selfish interests or from far deeper dimensions, as stated by the Alexandria summit between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: If the move continues in this deceptive, misleading direction, which exacerbates Iraq's involvement to prevent it from going back on its unjust action, motives must certainly go deeper and intentions must not be good, regardless of all assumptions. This is because policy is to be judged in accordance with its results, and results in this case will lead to the certain death of many. This is in view of the ever-true axiom: You may know when a war starts, but you will never know when and how it will end.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Returns From Paris UN Conference

LD0609165490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, who headed a high-ranking state delegation to Paris to take part in the second UN conference on the less developed countries, returned safely this evening to Kabul. At Kabul airport he was welcomed by 'Abdul Rahim Hatif and 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat, two vice presidents.

Missiles Purchased From Opposition Groups

LD0309161190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Five surface-to-air Sterila-2 type missiles and six surface-to-surface Sakr-20 missiles were purchased by the bodies of the State Security Ministry in some parts of Logar Province from Armed opposition groups. The price of the missiles was paid to the opposition in accordance with the decree.

'Extremists' Crushed in Nangarhar Ambush

LD0409140690 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Extremist groups associated with Gulbuddin and Khalis, which were preventing refugees from returning to their homes in Sorkh Rud, Nangarhar, were crushed in an ambush by the security force of the province. In the course of the ambush nine extremists were crushed and five others were injured and (Abdul Wahab), deputy ringleader, was captured with his weapon and some antistate propaganda papers.

One Killed by Rebel Rockets in Kabul

LD0609060790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 5, BAKHTAR—As a result of firing of three surface-to-surface American made rockets by the extremist elements on the residential quarters of Kabul city, one person was killed and five others injured today, reported BAKHTAR military correspondent.

The injured were rushed to a hospital. These rockets which were shelled from western direction of Kabul city hit the fourth, fifth and sixth precincts of the city have also afflicted material casualties.

Kabul Garrison Conducts Mopping-up Operations

LD0609060990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0527 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sep 5, BAKHTAR—The contingents and detachments of Kabul garrison today conducted a series of mopping up operations against the extremists in Arghandi area of Kabul Province, reports a BAKHTAR military correspondent. As a result of these combing operations 18 of the extremists were up rooted, 12 of them were injured, and a number of their assorted weapons including surface-to-surface rokets were either seized or destroyed.

Bangladesh

Airlift Flights Scheduled; Troops Leave for Gulf

BK0609162990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] About 30,000 Bangladeshi nationals are to be repatriated from the Gulf region by the end of this month. Disclosing this in Dhaka today, a Foreign Office spokesman said 5,815 Bangladeshis have been repatriated till this morning. Three flights are expected late tonight. Bangladesh Biman will operate 63 flights, while foreign planes 28 flights to repatriate Bangladeshis during the month.

The third batch of the Bangladesh Army contingent left Dhaka for Saudia Arabia this morning. They were seen off at Zia International Airport by senior Army officers. Another contingent leaves for Saudi Arabia tonight.

Minister Delivers Saudi Note to Malaysians

BK0209091690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0735 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 2 (AFP)—Bangladesh Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud has flown to Kuala Lumpur carrying a special message from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd for Malaysian leaders, a newspaper here reported Sunday. Officials here declined to comment on the MORNING SUN report which said that Mr. Mahmud, who was in Saudi Arabia as part of a Gulf tour, cut short his stay and returned here Friday on a special Saudi plane.

After an unannounced overnight stay, he headed Saturday for Malaysia with the Saudi king's message, the paper said without specifying his precise mission or the contents of the message. A Foreign Office spokesman Saturday confirmed to reporters that Mr. Mahmud had returned to Dhaka on Friday for consultations with Mr. Ershad before the president's departure for Paris, adding that he returned to Saudi Arabia to resume his mission. He conceded however that as the situation in the Gulf changed, Mr. Mahmud "might also change his tour programmes."

Acting Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on Sunday that he had not yet seen the report and declined to comment.

Diplomatic observers here recalled the August 15 visit here of the Saudi King's special envoy Shaykh 'Abd-Al-'Aziz Al Thuniyyan who delivered a message to Mr. Ershad requesting that Bangladesh send troops to Saudi Arabia to help defend it against possible aggression from Iraq, which invaded Kuwait on August 2. Bangladesh decided to send a token military contingent to Saudi Arabia for defensive purposes.

From Dhaka the saudi envoy flew to Kuala Lumpur on a similar mission. But Malaysia, joined by Indonesia, declined to send their troops to Saudi Arabia, reports said. It was not immediately clear whether the message the Bangladesh minister was reportedly carrying contained a fresh request from King Fahd to Malaysian leaders.

Foreign Minister Returns After Muslim Visits

BK0609022890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud returned to Dhaka last night after visiting several Asian Muslim countries. The visit took him to Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Maldives. Mr. Anisul Islam said he had discussed the matters relating to the Gulf crisis with the leaders of those countries.

New Army Chief Nuruddin Khan Assumes Office

BK3108133590 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Major General M. Nuruddin Khan took over as the new chief of staff of Bangladesh Army at the office of the supreme commander in Dhaka Friday. President Ershad promoted Major General Nuruddin to the rank of lieutenant general after he took over as the new army chief. Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Amir Ahmad Mustafa and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Mumtazuddin Ahmad formally put the rank badges of lieutenant general on the shoulder of the new Army chief in the presence of President Ershad who is also the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. President Ershad commended the services rendered by the outgoing chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General M. Atiqur Rahman, and wished success of the new Army chief. Earlier, General Atiqur paid a farewell call on President Ershad at the Supreme Command Headquarters.

India

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Defends Iraq Policy

Calls For Food, Medical Supplies

BK0609164890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1632 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 6 (AFP)—India Thursday reported widespread shortages in occupied Kuwait and called for United Nations approval of its efforts to rush food and medicines to the thousands of Indian nationals stranded there.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said here that bread, life-saving drugs and water were running scarce in the sheikdhom occupied by Iraq since August 2. But he denied that New Delhi was being soft on Baghdad and denounced what he called "disinformation" on the country's stance which Indian news reports say has led to attacks on Indians by Kuwaiti resistance fighters.

"Our people are facing great shortages of medicines," the spokesman said. "Bread shops are empty (and) hospitals have stopped taking patients because they have run out of life-saving drugs." He added that water was also in short supply and telephone connections were becoming erratic in Kuwait, where some 170,000 Indian workers were stranded when Iraqi troops invaded.

The spokesman [said] it was the severity of conditions that had forced thousands of Indians to flee Kuwait and make the "arduous trek across inhospitable territory" to Jordan. "Things are getting increasingly difficult. So people panic. When they panic, they leave their homes," he said, adding that conditions in Jordanian relief camps were no better.

Reports from Jordan say that the thousands of Asians and others in refugee camps there are facing severe shortages, with many penniless and unable to buy even bread from the open market. "That is why we are anxious to make the world realise that medicines and food should be rushed (to occupied Kuwait) to end untold human sufferings," the spokesman said.

He added that New Delhi had also asked the United Nations to help clear the way to end the crippling shortages. The official said India's position had been conveyed to Kuwaiti Oil Minister Rashid al-'Amiri, who met Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh here Wednesday and called for a total blockade of Iraq and Kuwait.

Mr. al-'Amiri, who is scheduled to return to Riyadh Friday, told a news conference after meeting Mr. V.P. Singh that any despatch of food and medicines to Kuwait would only help Iraq consolidate its occupation. Asked to comment on fears that food and medicines slated for Indians might reach Iraqi troops, the spokesman said: "I cannot answer that. We hope it reaches the right quarters."

The spokesman said India was committed to the U.N. sanctions against Iraq, and he said in New Delhi's view—"and this is shared by many countries"—the sanctions do not cover food for humanitarian purposes and medicines. India, a close ally of Iraq, has condemned the invasion of Kuwait. But its repeated appeals for a peaceful end to the Gulf crisis and its decision to shut its embassy in Kuwait have been dubbed pro-Iraqi actions.

India's Inder Kumar Gujral was also the first foreign minister to visit occupied Kuwait and meet Iraq's President Saddam Husayn after the invasion and subsequent annexation of the country. The spokesman said that "regrettably, they (Indians) have been called all sorts of names" in Kuwait because of a "propaganda campaign about what India's stand on the crisis is."

He said New Delhi was not being partisan. "We have not condoned aggression. We do not recognise annexation or merger (of Kuwait). We recognise the sovereignty of Kuwait. We deal with the Kuwaiti Government and Embassy.

"It is not correct to say that India's stand is not clear or leaves room for ambiguity," he added. But the spokesman declined to either confirm or deny Indian news reports that Indian nationals in Kuwait had been attacked by Kuwaiti resistance fighters because of New Delhi's alleged closeness to the Iraqi regime.

He added that New Delhi was planning to fly stranded Indians from Amman to Dubayy, and from there bring them to Bombay by Indian Air Force planes or merchant ships. Air India now ferries some 2,000 Indians a day from Amman to Bombay. New Delhi was earlier planning to pick up its stranded nationals from Baghdad and the Iraqi city of Basra. But the spokesman said that because of reports that air blockades were likely to be imposed on Iraq "it would be preferable for our ships and planes to travel to Dubayy."

Further on Comments

BK0709090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] India has made a fervent appeal to the world community to ensure supply of food and medicines to the stranded foreign nationals in Kuwait and Iraq. New Delhi is of the view that starving of civilian population for political objectives is not only inhuman but cruel. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi this morning that there is an urgent need for early supply of food and medicines as the situation is worsening with reports of acute shortage of supply there. He said hospitals in Kuwait are not taking any emergency cases as there is no stock of life-saving medicines with them. Long queues were reported for bread and other essential articles and the situation is pathetic at the Jordanian border with incidents of epidemic diseases among the foreign nationals trying to cross over the border to Amman.

The spokesman categorically stated that the UN resolution No. 661 on sanctions against Iraq does not cover food and medicine supplies and therefore there is no justification in not allowing these supplies into Iraq. He said New Delhi is in touch with international organizations like the Red Cross and Red Crescent bodies and feels that it is the duty of the international community to mitigate the sufferings of these people on humanitarian grounds.

The spokesman also described as mischievous the reports that India is not opposing the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait. On the other hand, he said, New Delhi had made it clear several times that it had not recognized the Iraqi action and would abide the UN decisions.

BJP Urges Conference on Job Reservation Issue

BK3108162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party has urged the government to convene a round table conference of all political parties and social and economic experts to resolve the problems in implementing the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr. K.L. Sharma, said the government should immediately invite students for a dialogue to remove apprehensions about the repercussions of the Mandal report.

Singh Rejects Opposition Remarks on Reservation

BK0709091790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister has strongly refuted the criticism that the implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations will create caste consciousness in the society and said these allegations are politically motivated. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh pointed out that the Mandal Commission has not based its recommendations on caste but on social, educational, and economic criteria. He was replying to the two-day threadbare discussion in the Lok Sabha on the government's decisions regarding reservations and promotion of employment for the youth. Mr. Singh said there is a national acceptance that the backward classes deserve a special consideration to bring them on par with the rest of the society. He said this can be achieved by providing them a due share in the bureaucracy which is the permanent power structure of the country. It is not a charity but a beginning to correct the social imbalance.

Reacting sharply to the nearly three-hour-long criticism of his party's view by the leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister retorted that Congress-I should implement the economic criterion for reservations in Andhra Pradesh which is under its rule, otherwise its demand for a national consensus on the issue becomes irrelevant. Mr. Gandhi said his party is willing to work for a national consensus and implement it if the government comes out with a comprehensive white paper on reservations and removal of, what he called, incongruities in the Mandal Commission report. The prime minister, however, rejected the opposition argument that the reservation policy will affect the administration and pointed out that efficiency has not suffered a setback in states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu which have a higher quota for backward classes.

Army Called in Himachal Pradesh After Clashes

BK0609163990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] In Himachal Pradesh, Army has been called out at Dharamsala, Kangra, Nagrota, (Bagwan), and Una to deal with the situation following clashes between pro- and anti-reservation [of jobs] agitators. In Dharamsala and Una several policemen and agitators were injured in violent incidents.

In Chandigarh, a bundh [strike] was observed for the second day today. In Orissa, bundh was observed in Barghat, Barpali, and Padampur in Sambalpur District. Reports say that road and rail traffic was paralyzed in several parts of Rajasthan. In Bihar, nearly 300 anti-reservation agitators were arrested while staging a dharna [sit-in agitation] near the state secretariat in patna today to protest against the Tuesday's [4 September] police firing. In Karnataka, students took out processions shouting slogans at several places.

Minister Says Assam Front Links With Militants

BK0209113590 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] The union railway minister, Mr. George Fernandes, says he has definite information as a member of the government that the United Liberation Front of Assam [ULFA] has succeeded in forging links with militants in Kashmir and Punjab and with Tamil insurgents. Speaking at a seminar on Indian Nationalism—Problems and Challenges, he said the ULFA has succeeded in becoming a linchpin for insurgents all over the country. The seminar was organized as part of the fifth anniversary celebrations of the Institute of Social Sciences. Mr. Fernandes said the growing militancy by youths in the country is a clear indication that politicians have failed to tackle the problems of the country. He said the only answer was to have a new constitution providing a genuine decentralized state with development activity made the responsibility of the people.

Three Killed, 'Terrorists' Arrested in Kashmir

BK0409161090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] In Kashmir Valley, three employees of the Border Road Organization were killed when the terrorists ambushed their vehicle near (Manekbal) in Baramula District today. Security forces arrested six Pakistan-trained terrorists from Baramula and Pulwama and recovered some arms and ammunition from them.

Law Minister Goswami Rescinds Resignation

BK3108174890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] The law minister, Mr. Dinesh Goswami, has agreed not to press his resignation from the Union Cabinet. This follows appeals by the National Front Presidium and the Assam chief minister, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, to Mr. Goswami to withdraw his resignation. Announcing this at a news conference in New Delhi today, the spokesman of the National Front, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has called for a special meeting next week to discuss the grievances of the state in regard to the alleged inadequate implementation of the Assam accord.

The Presidium has appealed to the students protesting against the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations to desist from the agitational approach. The presidium in a resolution congratulated the prime minister for his bold initiative to implement the Mandal recommendations. The two-and-half-hour meeting made a comprehensive review of the implementation of the manifesto of the National Front and expressed satisfaction over the speed with which the programs are being taken up by the government.

Premature Retirement of Army General Reported

BK3008111290 Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Aug 90 p 1

[By Special Correspondent]

[Text] Director-General of Infantry Lt Gen [Lieutenant General] S.C. Sardeshpande retired prematurely from service on Wednesday [22 August] over differences with Army Headquarters.

Gen. Sardeshpande's imminent departure was mentioned in Parliament by BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] member Jaswant Singh during the debate on the Ordinance to vest the Armed Forces with special power for operations against terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr Jaswant Singh was reported to have stated that Gen Sardeshpande had "returned his commission and his decorations", but it is learnt that the General has not returned his medals.

General Sardeshpande had only recently been promoted to the rank of Lt General after returning with the Indian Peace Keeping Force [IPKF] from Sri Lanka. He was made Director General of Infantry at Army Headquarters.

It is learnt it was reasons other than "non-appreciation of the achievements of the IPKF" that Gen Sardeshpande gave the Army HQ [Headquarters] the option of taking certain actions within a given timeframe or allowing him to retire prematurely.

His case is different from that of Lt Gen S.K. Sinha (now Indian Ambassador to Nepal) who sought retirement after he had been by-passed for appointment to Chief of Army Staff.

Gen. Sardeshpande was given a warm farewell by his colleagues before he left Army HQ on Wednesday.

Iran

AFP Reports Further on Possible Aid for Iraq

NC0609125990 Paris AFP in English 1211 GMT 6 Sep 90

[By Serge Arnold]

[Excerpts] Tehran, Sept 6 (AFP)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz will visit Iran on Sunday in a bid to thwart U.S.-Soviet efforts to tighten the sanctions noose around Baghdad at a time when Iran is considering offering its former enemy food and medical aid. [passage omitted]

The English-language daily Tehran Times meanwhile reported that Iran might provide food and medical aid to

Iraq, despite the international embargo imposed after Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"Since according to the U.N. resolutions, food and medicine are not included in the sanctions so far imposed on Iraq, by choosing to help the Iraqi people Iran will not be breaching any international law," the paper said referring to the embargo endorsed by the U.N. Security Council on August 6.

The newspaper, considered close to the government of President 'Ali 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said a final decision on this aid had not yet been reached and that it had first to be approved by the Supreme National Security Council, Iran's highest decision-making body. The sanctions were triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2 and its annexation of the oil-rich emirate four days later.

Analysts here said the Tehran Times editorial was a clear threat that Tehran would respect international sanctions, but would scuttle efforts to undermine Saddam Husayn if the West did not make a positive move towards Iran. The newspaper said Iran had every right to view the Gulf crisis "from its own national interest perspective", given the West's "treacherous approach" during the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq, by siding with Baghdad.

It said Western officials were only now divulging facts about the West's attempts to prevent an Iranian victory in the Gulf war. "The former French foreign minister, Claude Cheysson, for instance, a few days ago disclosed that the (U.N.) Security Council had decided in a hush-hush meeting that Iran had to be kept from winning the war. "Now, in the face of open and clandestine moves by the Western powers against the Islamic republic, the latter naturally has the right to approach regional problems from its own point of interests," the paper explained.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Wednesday that Washington could ask the Security Council to vote on an air blockade of Iraq if the current maritime embargo proved inadequate. The Iraqi foreign minister said during a brief visit to Moscow this week that there were considerable "divergences" in the Soviet and Iraqi views on the Gulf crisis, but that the talks had been "cordial," and he had urged the Soviets to play a "more important role" in the issue.

But at a press conference Thursday after his meeting with President Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday, Mr. 'Aziz skirted questions over a possible Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. He said he had come as an envoy of the Iraqi president "in order to exchange opinions on the situation in our region before the meeting" in Helsinki Sunday between Mr. Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush. Moscow has condemned Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

ICRC Head Lauds Government Role on Hostages

NC0709083990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] met with First Vice President Mr. Habibi yesterday and expressed satisfaction with the developments in the solution of the Iran-Iraq problems and the release of the prisoners of war. [passage omitted]

The ICRC head also met with our Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati yesterday afternoon and discussed the committee's readiness to facilitate the exodus of foreign nationals from Iraq and Kuwait. During this meeting Mr. Velayati pointed to the need for continuing prisoner of war exchanges, and he welcomed the ICRC's readiness to help in solving humanitarian problems stemming from the current Persian Gulf crisis.

The ICRC head lauded the constructive role played by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the release of two Red Cross technicians in Lebanon, and he called on the Islamic Republic to continue its support for the ICRC's humanitarian efforts.

Habibi Views POW Exchange, Foreigners' Transit

LD0609200590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, the head of the International Red Cross Organization, met and conferred with First Vice President Habibi this afternoon.

During the meeting he expressed the hope that the positive trend of POW exchange will continue with the formation of the trilateral technical committee, until the last POW is exchanged. He also thanked Iran for her cooperation in the matter of the passage through Iran of foreign nationals resident in Iraq and Kuwait.

Declaring Iran's readiness to continue the necessary cooperation with the Red Cross in humanitarian matters and thanking the International Committee of the Red Cross for providing the facilities for a speedy exchange of POW's, Mr. Habibi then said: We hope that, considering the existing understanding and the cooperation and enthusiasm of the Red Cross, the exchange of POW's will be completed in as suitable a manner as possible.

He added: Iran will give full cooperation in the matter of the passage of foreign nationals resident in Iraq and Kuwait. But officials of international organisations, who are involved in humanitarian matters, should note that Iran's present resources are not unlimited, and if the number of people wishing to pass through Iran is considerable, the Red Cross branches of countries whose nationals wish to travel through Iran should seriously cooperate in providing the necessary facilities for their nationals. The Red Cross should place at their disposal, at the source of their journey—that is, Iraq—valid documents necessary for passing through Iran and entering another country, so that future problems are avoided.

Confirming the remarks of the first vice president, the head of the Red Cross organization expressed the hope that the above-mentioned matters will be reviewed and resolved in Iraq and Geneva.

900 More POW's Return Home

LD0509180590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The 10th group of unregistered POW's returned to the Islamic homeland this afternoon via Khosravi border crossing. The following is a report from our correspondent in Bakhtaran center:

The 10th group of released POW's recently registered by the International Red Cross, returned to the Islamic homeland via the Khoshravi border crossing this afternoon. According to our correspondent from the Bakhtaran center, who is in Qas-re Shirin, 900 of these sources of pride stepped on to the soil of the Islamic Republic of Iran this afternoon at 1400, and were welcomed by the commander of the gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic, a number of officials and political-ideological clergy of the Gendarmerie, as well as a number of defenders of Islam. [passage omitted]

Expansion of Ties With France Discussed

LD0609185390 Tehran IRNA in English 1817 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Paris, Sep 6, IRNA—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Maleki discussed ways of expanding Tehran-Paris ties with Francois Scheer, director-general at the Foreign Ministry, here Thursday. During the meeting, also attended by Iranian Ambassador to Paris Ali Ahani, Scheer outlined France's viewpoints on ties with the Islamic Republic, calling for promotion of bilateral relations.

Maleki, in Paris since Monday at the invitation of the French Foreign Ministry, underlined the need to make some decisions on expansion of mutual ties in educational and research fields. The two also exchanged viewson the Persian gulf crisis resulting from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the intrustion of foreign military forces in the area.

Scheer thought that problems facing the Persian Gulf region had roots in international developments. The Iranian official is to return to Tehran Friday.

Azerbaijan SSR Delegation Arrives on Visit

NC0609145090 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] An economic, political, and military delegation arrived in (?Rasht), the provincial center of Gilan, from the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. The members of the delegation are expected to hold talks with the Iranian officials on the mutual travel of the citizens of the two countries and on other matters which concern Iran and Azerbaijan. Among the members of the delegation are the representatives of the chairman of the Council of Ministers and the minister of trade of Azerbaijan SSR and the district officers of [name indistinct], Lenkoran, and Astara cities.

According to an agreement between Iran and the Soviet Union, the people who live in the border zone can travel up to 45 km into the territory of the other country. A number of border signs have been put up to indicate the limits.

Moqtada'i on Drug Traffickers, Death Penalty

LD0509115890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] The president of the State Supreme Court, Mr. Moqtada'i, who has gone to Mashhad to investigate the judicial issues of Khorasan Province, gave an interview to reporters. He said the fight against drug-traffickers is continuing unabatedly; and the country's judicial system is fully prepared to offer fast legal aid to the released POW's and their families.

Also during this interview, he referred to the execution of 48 members of a gang involved in manufacturing and distributing 170kg of heroin. Mr. Moqtada'i stressed the need for continuation of serious and decisive combat against the merchants of death, and added that the task of investigating the files of the drug- traffickers takes two weeks from the time of arrest until execution of the verdict.

He added that the state judicial system will fight relentlessly against corruption and forbidden deeds; and the struggle against corrupt individuals, smugglers, and merchants of death is as important as the struggle against those who invade the territory of the Islamic homeland.

Research Group Views Renewed Crackdown on Drugs

Smugglers, Addicts Arrested

NC0509120090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God.

A three-day report on the Zafar-3 [as heard—presumably should be Wal-'Adiat-3] maneuvers has been released although the maneuvers are still in progress throughout the country. According to the report, the implementation of the policy to eliminate the actual elements responsible for the entry of narcotics began with an eradication operation in Kerman. The operation eliminated a drug production and distribution network active in the provinces of Esfahan and Sistan va Baluchestan. It also destroyed a large network in Tehran.

In all, the raids discovered 685 kgs of narcotics while 165 smugglers and more than 1,000 addicts were arrested.

The Zafar-3 maneuvers are a sequel to the continued anti-drug campaign and longterm plans following the approval of legislation on this matter in January 1367 [Year beginning 21 March 1988].

The Islamic Revolutionary Committee launched its first anti-drug scheme that same year, codenamed "Wal-'Adiat-1" followed by "Wal- 'Adiat-2." The objective was to find and destroy networks for the distribution of narcotics in cities. [passage omitted]

In its program for the current year, the Islamic Revolution committee is anticipated that 100,000 addicts will be arrested. In the past year 55,000 addicts have been arrested of whom 45,000 have been sent to rehabilitation centers. The Islamic Revolution Committee is now striving to reduce the number of addicts, and for this purpose, it has sent a large number to the rehabilitation centers and is attempting to motivate young people to avoid becoming addicts.

Two years after the launch of the Wal-'Adiat schemes one, two and now three, the addicts are facing immense problems caused by rising prices and difficulties in obtaining drugs. For this reason, the Islamic Revolution Committee is endeavoring to increase restrictions and to disband all urban networks.

What should be of greater attention to the officials this year is the issue of the borders, the bolstering of the capacity of the operational forces, and the elimination of all difficulties which face the Committee officials. The proliferation of rehabilitation centers is of great importance. If such centers are not in proportion to the number of addicts arrested or those who wish to end their addiction, the labors of the Revolution Committees will prove less effective.

Thus, it is necessary for the antidrug headquarters to coordinate activities with the prisons so that this scourge may be eliminated swiftly. Now that the dragnets have been tightened even further in the anti-drug campaign, and the drug peddlers find themselves confronted with numerous obstructions, the support of all the people, government officials and employees is of greater importance than ever before. [passage omitted]

Further on Report

LD0409205790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Since the launch of the "Zafar-3" exercises the guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee have destroyed four gangs engaged in the production and distribution of narcotics they have also impounded 685 kg of narcotics. According to a Central News Unit report, thanks to the launch of the "Zafar-3" exercise, during the past three days 165 narcotics smugglers and 1,174 addicts have been arrested.

According to the same report, Islamic Revolution Committee guards of Kordestan, having already identified a network of narcotics production and distribution in the Provinces of Sistan va Baluchestan, Esfahan, Fars, Kerman, and Khjozestan, have discovered 160 kg of narcotics.

Meanwhile, Islamic Revolution Committee guards in Tehran province have discovered a network engaged in the transfer of narcotics from Sistan va Baluchestan to Tehran; they impounded 360 kg of narcotics. Also, according to the same report, the Islamic Revolution committee of Kerman and Sistan va Baluchestan, in operations during this period, have destroyed several international gangs engaged in the smuggling of narcotics.

Ayatollah Najafi-Mar'ashi Dies of Heart Attack

NC3008070990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] We were informed with great regret and sorrow that the honorable scholar His Eminence the Grand Ayatollah Najafi-Mar'ashi, who was among the honorable sources of emulation and great scholars, passed away last night at the age of 96 from a heart attack after performing the last evening prayers at the holy shrine of Ma'sumah, peace be upon her, and returning to his house.

Reports received state that the blessed body of His Eminence the Grand Ayatollah Najafi-Mar'ashi will be carried at 0900 tomorrow from his house to the holy shrine of Ma'sumah, peace be upon her, and will be buried in his public library according to his will.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution, has sent a message of condolences. The text of the message is as follows:

From God we come, and to Him we return. [Koranic verse] I extend my condolences on the demise of the Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Shaboddin Najafi-Mar'ashi—may God's benedictions be with him—who was the great scholar and jurisconsult descending from the house of the prophet—peace be upon him—to the imam of the ages—may our souls be sacrificed to him—to the Shiite world and especially the honorable sources of emulation, great scholars, and the religious seminaries and particularly to his respectable family.

That great man was one of the pillars of the religious seminary and one of its scientific and practical bases, and he devoted his blessed life to teaching, training, and purification. The loss of this great scholar is truly a great tragedy.

I pray to God Almighty to elevate the status of his eminence, and I call on the dear nation throughout the country to laud his outstanding role.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

Also, the honorable leaders sent a message of condolences to Their Eminences the Grand Ayatollahs Golpayegani and Araki.

The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran also extends its condolences on this tragic loss to the imam of the ages, may God expedite his advent, to the honorable leadership, to the religious seminaries throughout the country, and to the Muslim compatriots.

Behbahani Revelations on Pro-American Group

NC2808195990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Aug 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Nationalists and Their Confessions"]

[Excerpts] The confessions of Farhad Behbahani, one of the founders of the so-called Society for the Defense of the Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation in Iran and in charge of the Society's publications, which were carried on the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran the night before last and published in yesterday's newspapers were not new for the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which could have helped to provide fresh data on this group. However they are worth examining and reviewing from two aspects:

1. Farhad Behbahani was in charge of preparing all the material for the Society's publications, who was naturally well aware of all the matters and he has openly admitted to the Society's affiliation with the United States. [passage omitted]

These confessions once again reveal the utterly disgraceful and shameful dossier of those who profess to be nationalists, and are an indication of the fact that—in conditions when the entire nation is shouting the slogans of Islam in unison, and has bestowed a tangible form to the sovereignty of Islam in the greatest struggle in the history of this region—these individuals have once again donned the mask of nationalism, embellished with the enamel and hues of concern for Islam. They have pitched themselves against the nation and attempted to strike at the very roots of the government, which had been established by the resolve of the nation and the sacrifices of the offspring of this soil.

These claimants to the title of nationalists should answer this historical question as to why did they agree to attire themselves in the garb of nationalism and to play the part of the fifth column in the dire conditions of the imposed war? Farhad Behbahani himself explains this by saying: The Society for the so-called Defense of Freedom played the role of the fifth column in the imposed war and strove to weaken the morale of the people who were the main backing for success in the war.

2. Farhad Behbahani's confessions regarding the mental affiliation of the Society for the so-called Defense of the Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation, with the West, and the United States—especially in view of the fact that this Society had sent an open letter to the President claiming that the present government was leaning toward the West—is in itself a warning for all those who fall prey to such misleading propaganda, and are attracted to its deceptive stance, without investigation or adequate information.

The naive and hasty establishment of the Society for the so-called Defense of the Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation and its objectives are not hidden from perceptive individuals. The members of this Society were immersed in chimerical notions instilled by the United States that the present changes in the world can also affect the Islamic Republic of Iran, thus paving the way for toppling the reign of Islam.

It was for this reason that they attempted to solicit anti-Revolution weakwilled individuals to enter the practical arena of opposition to the Islamic Republic, and to intimidate and incite the Revolutionary forces.

These revelations of the arrogant nationalists are of special significance in the history of the Islamic Revolution, and lay open a new page of facts before our vigilant and Revolutionary people.

The fact that these weapons of the nationalists are now out of their hands and their corrosion is obvious to the most optimistic kind of persons as well. With the fall of these weapons one by one, the strength and righteousness of the path of the Islamic Republic will become more manifest. Gradually, with the passage of time all the rust will be removed from the holy visage of our oppressed system. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Want Israel Uninvolved in Crisis

LD0609132490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1110 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] At a meeting between the foreign minister of the Zionist regime and the U.S. secretary of state in Washington the issues of canceling Israel's military debts to the United States, the role and position of the occupying regime in the Persian Gulf crisis, and the reflection of this crisis on the Palestine problem were discussed. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi was scheduled to pay his first visit to Washington more than a month ago. He is a member of the cabinet that rejected the plan proposed by U.S. Secretary of State Baker for solving the Middle East crisis, and that is described as more right-wing and fanatical than the previous government. This meeting, which is considered a turning point in the stagnant Tel Aviv-Washington ties since the fall of the previous Israeli cabinet last Farvardin [March-April 1990], was postponed in the wake of Iraq's attack on and occupation of Kuwait. It appears now that this attack and its consequences, whether war breaks out or a political solution is found, can have highly important effects on the Palestine arena and can alter many of the ideas and existing plans for the Middle East.

The important point, in U.S. opinion, is that Israel should refrain from intervening in the Persian Gulf crisis. Washington is trying to present the existing crisis as a confrontation between Iraq [on one side] and the West and the Arab and Islamic states of the region [on the other]. It has thus welcomed the deployment of

Syrian, Moroccan and Pakistani forces in [Saudi] Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar within this framework. Iraq, however, is trying to pretend that this is a war between itself and the Arab and Islamic nations [on one side] and the West, particularly the United States, and the puppets of the West in the region and Israel [on the other].

The slightest Israeli intervention in this crisis can thus change the war's direction and turn it into another Arab-Israeli war, which would compel the Arab governments, which have deployed their forces next to the U.S. and Western forces, to evacuate their troops from Arabia. It is obvious that this would further isolate the United States, the West, Saudi Arabia, and the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms in the Arab world. The United States, therefore, is more eager than others that the Israeli regime should not play the slightest role in the Persian Gulf crisis. But if the war were to break out, its spread and missile attack on Tel Aviv would clearly change the situation.

The Israeli regime owes some $5 billion in military debt to the United States and is asking Washington to write it off, just as the United States did for Egypt. Recently the United States Administration wrote off Egypt's entire military debt of more than $7 billion in gratitude for Husni Mubarak's services and his role in the Persian Gulf crisis and the Arab community. The Tel Aviv regime has also announced, through its War [as heard] Minister Moshe Arens, that the United States should even go one step further and offer more military and economic assistance to Israel. Informed sources say that Washington also intends to dispatch more military equipment to occupied Palestine to turn the balance in favor of this regime in the region.

The visit of the Zionist regime's foreign minister to Washington took place also on the eve of the coming U.S.-Soviet summit in Helsinki. The Soviet Union, which is in favor of finding a political solution to the Persian Gulf crisis, has announced that it is opposed to the dispatch of a military consignment to the region and the use of force. Some time ago it called for an international conference to solve all problems of the Middle East, including the Palestine crisis and the crisis created by the Iraqi attack on Kuwait. In other words, the Soviet Union plans to link these two crises together, but the United States and Israel have declared their opposition to such a plan.

At any rate there is no doubt that the Israeli regime greatly benefits from the Persian Gulf crisis. The greater suppression of the uprising by the Muslim people of Palestine and the more extensive migration of Soviet Jews to Palestine are overshadowed by the news of the Persian Gulf crisis. The Palestine crisis and the proposed solutions, which could create trouble for the Israeli regime, are now forgotten.

Tehran Paper Condemns U.S. 'Onslaught' on Gulf

NC2008204290 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Aug 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Warding Off Aggression With Aggression!"]

[Text] In the Name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Just as the onslaught on Kuwait by Saddam's troops is to be condemned, the onslaught of the troops of the United States and its allies on the region is also to be condemned, and to the same extent. If the Persian Gulf states desire peace and security, which they obviously do, these cannot be obtained by an onslaught of American and allied troops. In fact, they will contribute to the escalation of tension and insecurity in the region.

So far, wherever the United States has gone, it has endangered that particular region. Can a tension-creating, domineering element ever bring peace and security? Various experiences of the U.S. military presence in any part of the world, especially in the Persian Gulf region, and during the imposed war in particular, have proved that the United States has no skill except to create tension, and to embark on aggression and intimidation.

The purpose of the deployment of U.S. troops in the region, as on all previous occasions, is merely to protect its illicit interests and to capitalize on the situation which has been created in the region by the progeny of the Archsatan, who are engaged in aggression. Even if we ignore this fact it is still clear that the United States is not suffering over the security and stability of the region, neither does it feel anything for the al-Sabahs, Al Sa'uds, Al Khalifahs, al-Maktums, and their ilk!

When the issue is a safeguarding of the U.S. vital interests, not only are these "Als" of no importance to the United States, but the United States would sacrifice a hundred other "Al's" for the sake of safeguarding its vital interests. If Saddam has now been transformed into a monster without horns and a tail, it is because he has been reduced to this state by the illicit U.S. interests. On the day that Saddam attacked the Islamic Republic of Iran at the behest of the United States, neither the United States, nor the United Nations, nor any of the Western or Arab governments (which are today weighing the relative advantages of staying in the region, or escaping—whichever may be more fruitful) condemned Iraq. On the contrary they even encouraged and supported it.

They described the war as a "war between Shiites and Sunnis," "Arabs and non-Arabs," and labeled the Iranians, whose only crime was to be Muslim, as the Magi [majus]! When Saddam attempted to avert his downfall at the hands of the valiant combatants of Islam by resorting to the use of chemical weapons, the same United States, Western governments, and those very "Al" dynasties of the region maintained an outward silence, while covertly encouraging him. It was al-Sabah, a mere fugitive today, who gave Saddam the cash to buy those chemical weapons.

It was natural, therefore, that the hornless, tailless ghoul Saddam should trample upon all humanitarian and international norms today and should overlook concrete reality, and that he should be the one who has scorched the roots of the nearest and most affluent of his neighbors. He will also set all the other "Al's" ablaze.

The Americans' clamor will only continue as long as they see their interests endangered. The Americans are regretting that they transformed Saddam into a ferocious brute, who does not heed their bidding. However, in the face of the rising tide of Islam in the region, they do not see anyone capable of being useful to them in this regard except Saddam, and it is obvious that they will exercise caution in chastising their disobedient and intoxicated progeny.

Thus, there is a strong possibility is that a compromise will be effected on the division of the assets of the al-Sabahs between Saddam and Bush! That would definitely be the case, unless the United States can find a replacement for Saddam in the region, one who can fulfil the task of combating the Islamic movement in the region and, at the same time, not be mutinous, defiant, and prone to dementia!

Paper Views Iraqi Acceptance of Algiers Accord

NC3108162290 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The Fruits of Resistance"]

[Excerpts] After eight years of war and two years of talks—10 years during which it continued to harbor hopes of extorting concessions despite its rhetoric about peace and calls for ending the war—the Iraqi regime has finally accepted the contents of the Algiers accord. The prisoners of war will be released, armed forces will withdraw to international borders, and a peace treaty will be signed between Iran and Iraq. [passage omitted]

This Iraqi move was no doubt the result of several factors. Saddam himself referred to this fact in his letter to our president, noting that he wished to use his Armed Forces in other possible directions. However, these issues are peripheral to the main issue, which is the principle of our resistance.

It is true that Iraq has become enmeshed at present in the Kuwait and Persian Gulf imbroglio. However, Saddam and everyone else well know that, despite the flexibility displayed by the Islamic Republic of Iran over Resolution 598, Iran is not prepared to overlook violations of a country's territorial integrity. This is not something on which it can be flexible.

In light of the conditions prevailing in the contemporary world, such flexibility would be tantamount to flexibility over the very principles and foundations of the government and the system. Can one simply hand over a part of the Islamic government and system to the enemy? Since the very first day that Iran rose up to defend itself from the Iraqi aggression, it insisted only that the aggression should be halted and that the aggressor should withdraw to internationally recognized borders and refrain from making any territorial or other demands. The demands for the chastisement of the aggressor and the toppling of the Iraqi regime and the [Iranian forces'] entry into Iraqi territory was the result of the reluctance by international politicians to accept Iran's rightful demands. [passage omitted]

Paper Criticizes Turkish President's Iraq Stance

LD0609130990 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep 6, IRNA—The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in a commentary today that Washington is looking for accomplices with whom it may share the burden of blame for what it is going to do in the Persian Gulf.

It said in the wake of the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc Washington finds it necessary to offer new justification for maintaining NATO and its military capacity.

As far as the United States is concerned Iraq's occupation of Kuwait has warranted the presence in the Persian Gulf of [words indistinct] daily said warning that the experience of the Americans in that part of the world may not be any better than their experience in Lebanon earlier on.

"Washington's European allies are gradually learning that they are unwantedly being involved in a crisis with unpredictable implications, and that the United States insists to lead others in the way...

"That is the wish of Washington and of some allies of the United States, though the course of events is not such as to benefit the intrusive forces of NATO, nor will NATO be able to maintain its military place in the region a long time to [words indistinct] think of the wrath of angry Muslims and in their evaluation of the situation give it the consideration that it deserves: [words indistinct] the earth under the foot of invaders and repeat their nightmare in Lebanon," it added.

The commentary criticized Turkish President Turgut Ozal for having observed earlier this week that the end of the current crisis in the Persian Gulf will also mark a change in the geographical map of the region. It said that despite her liberal aids to Saddam Husain Turkey seems to have an eye to part of the Iraqi territory which, the daily said, it hopes to receive in the event of an eventual disintegration of Iraq.

The commentary protested the observation as uttered by the Turkish president saying that the Turkish Government would do well to offer some explanation in relation with the shocking prediction of the Turkish president. "We have sufferred as [word indistinct] of the crimes and invasion of the Baghdad government more than any other nation, although the fact of our suffereances would not justify our consent to the infliction of an irreparable blow on the people of Iraq. We cannot simply sit back and watch the disintegration and dismembering of the Iraqi territory, [words indistinct].

The commentary said the seizure of any part of Iraq by Turkey would mean NATO's seizure of oil resources in the Persian Gulf, and reminded that Ozal's observations [word indistinct] judged in light of Turkey being a member of NATO.

Commentary on Population Control Programs

NC3008170590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] This week the cabinet issued a directive on the duties of the executive organs in implementing the policy on birth control. On the basis of this directive, the ministries of health, education, and cultural and Islamic guidance, the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Planning and Budget Organization, and several other organizations and bodies have been assigned the duty of compiling and implementing family planning programs.

The most major problem faced by developing countries is that of population control and of ways to harness unruly population growths. Experts state that population control programs in each country differ on the basis of the different material and financial potentials of each country. Especially in our country, we have to harness the unruly population growth because of the shortage of material possibilities and financial resources.

The unruly increase in population in our country today has created many problems. The population growth is 3.9 percent and an average of 2 million people will be added to the country's population each year. If this rate continues, experts believe that Iran's population will double every 18 years.

These facts point to the need for programs. The unruly population growth is of great importance as far as economic, cultural, and social programming in the country is concerned, and the consequences of the disparate population growth will be extremely extensive and grave. The first problem that can be created by the unruly population growth is that government programs will be upset. This is because each program envisages maximum capabilities and a deadline. Thus the results of each program will depend on the rate of population growth and its congruity with existing potentials.

Our country is facing a limitation of potentials and financial resources and economic and social problems. The unruly population growth can lead to problems such as unemployment, housing shortages, shortages in educational and welfare opportunities, and increases in food requirements.

The percentage of pregnancies in Iran is 6.4 percent or 188 in every 1000 people. Annually 2.5 percent is added to the demand for agricultural products. But the increase in agricultural production has not kept pace with this growth. As an example, the 1365 [year beginning 21 March 1986] census showed that if the education credit allocations continue as they are now, in the next 20 years, only 20 out of 100 youths will be able to attend school. It is said that with the current population growth, potentials will be halved while the population will be doubled in the next 20 years.

There are two views on population control. Some believe that if the current potentials and wealth are justly distributed in the country, there will basically be no need for population control. But most experts believe that in view of the government's programming and the shortage of potentials and financial resources and the unfavorable consequences of an illogical population growth, the controlling and harnessing of population growth is a must. This group—which supports the idea of population control—propound various economic and social statistics and warn of the dangerous consequences of population growth while pointing to the government's limited capabilities in meeting the people's needs.

The government has started to pursue a population control policy and has undertaken to inform the people of the unfavorable social and economic impacts of population growth and ways to control it.

*King Warns Against Secret Agreements With Iraq

90AS0360B London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] The administrative office of Reza Pahlavi, the Iranian monarch, issued a communique in regard to the position of Iraq vis-a-vis Iran and warned that any sort of agreement with Iraq must be made with the full knowledge of the Iranian people and that any secret agreement to merely save the regimes of the Islamic Republic and Iraq from the crisis facing them will not be acceptable in the future by the Iranian nation. The announcement states:

"The announcement of the government of Iraq regarding the acceptance of the terms of the 1975 Algiers treaty and the withdrawal from the occupied lands in Iran as well as the exchange of prisoners of war on the basis of Resolution 598 of the UN Security Council is certainly pleasing to all Iranians. It is hoped that as a result of these changes, finally all the border differences between Iran and Iraq, including freedom of shipping in the Shatt al-'Arab, will be resolved forever on the basis of the 1975 Algiers treaty."

"Nevertheless, we must not forget the effects of the present conditions of the existing crisis in the Persian Gulf on the change in the previous position of Iraq vis-a-vis Iran. While the whole world in confronting the clear aggression of Iraq against Kuwait has risen to oppose the leadership of that country, there is no doubt that the purpose of the expression of interest by Iraq in recognizing the legitimate rights of Iran is only to be able to face the new crisis it has created in Kuwait with ease of mind in regard to the war with Iran. It should not be forgotten that today the government of Iraq is agreeing to the same treaty that it unilaterally and illegally violated in 1980 by attacking and displaying aggression against Iran, starting a destructive war which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iranians and the destruction of a great portion of the national wealth of Iran."

"With a sense of satisfaction with regard to the fact that the greatest obstacle on the path of establishing peace and ending the extraordinary war conditions in the country has been removed, the Iranian nation cannot ignore the aggression of Iraq against Kuwait nor forget the unacceptable action of Iraq in disrupting the stability and security of the Persian Gulf region. For this reason, until the Iraqi forces have withdrawn from Kuwait and the situation of the region has returned to normal, the action of the government of Iraq with regard to Iran cannot completely satisfy the Iranian nation."

"While the actions of Iraq can pave the way for ending the border problems between Iran and Iraq, this step will not cause the Iranian nation to ignore the legal commitments and duties it has in accordance with the UN charter and on the basis of the recent Security Council resolutions in connection with the Persian Gulf crisis. Ultimately, any agreement with the government of Iraq must take place with the full knowledge of the Iranian nation and securing all the legal rights of and compensation for the damages to the Iranian people. Any cover-up or secret agreement which is merely to save the regimes of the Islamic Republic and Iraq will not be accepted by the Iranian people."

*'Terrorists' Imprisoned in Kuwait Said Free

90AS0360D London KEYHAN in Persian
23 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] According to the SUNDAY TIMES, 17 terrorists jailed in Kuwait, who had escaped during the invasion of the Iraqi army on Kuwait, had escaped from the prisons of that Island intending to go to Iran.

A Lebanese prisoner, 'Abdol'aziz Karayem, who escaped from prison during the Iraqi invasion and went to Southern Lebanon, said: The fate of these 17 persons, of whom 16 are Shi'ites and one is a Christian, is tied to the fate of the Western hostages in Beirut. He emphasized that all 17 prisoners have escaped and are hiding around Kuwait waiting for the appropriate opportunity to escape to Iran.

'Abdol'aziz Karayem arrived in Southern Lebanon from Kuwait last Friday.

The freedom of the terrorist prisoners in Kuwait was constantly discussed as a preliminary action for the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon, but the government of Kuwait would not agree to release them.

*Only 150 U.S. Claim Cases Left in The Hague

90AS0349C London KEYHAN in Persian
16 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Almost 3,500 cases, large and small complaints from the government and American companies against Iran at the Hague, have been heard and completed, and have been declared settled by decrees from the court or based on agreements between the two sides, resulting also in each case in the issuance of a verdict by the court.

In announcing this, Eftekhar Jahromi, legal consultant to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said that currently only 150 cases remain to be heard at the court, and they will probably be handled in the next two years.

The handling of complaints by American companies and its government against the Iranian Government and institutions is based on an agreement made in 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] in Algeria between the Islamic Republic regime and the American government.

Based on the Algiers accord, an international arbitration panel composed of nine arbitrators at the Hague deal with claims on confiscated property and shares of American companies and factories since the Islamic revolution. With the completion of deliberations on these 3,500 cases, the ownership of the disputed shares and assets of these companies has been definitively transferred to Iran.

Currently, in addition to the 150 cases that have not yet been heard, Iran's military claim is also on this court's docket.

Other than the claims now on the court's docket, Iran's complaint against America for shooting down the Iranian air bus is now before the international court and its 15 international judges.

*Plan To Punish 'Economic Saboteurs' Approved

90AS0345O Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
1 Aug 90 p 25

[Text] Necessary explanation—In the previous issue, due to the lack of space and the extent of the material, we could not include the text of the Majles legislation, and we promise to print it in this issue for your examination. It is necessary to mention that the Majles recess will begin on 19 July and continue for a month. Consequently, we will not have reports on the Majles in the next three issues.

Session of Saturday 15 July—At the public session of the Majles chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, the Law on Implementation of Article 175 of the Constitution was enacted.

During this session, first the Law on Implementation of Article 175 of the Constitution in the supervisory sector was proposed. Several deputies proposed amendments to paragraphs in Article Three. Opponent and supporter spoke and the acting director of the Voice and Vision Organization and the expert from the appropriate commission gave explanations.

Then the provisions of the bill were put to a vote and were approved as follows:

Article Three. The Supervisory Council, which is charged with the supervision of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will perform the following duties:

1. Supervise the proper performance of all the affairs of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Organization and apply the necessary penalties for violations and deviations, to implement reforms.
2. Supervise the executive policies in the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Organization, implement them, and announce the council's views on reform to the chief of the organization.
3. Supervise the proper implementation of the pertinent laws in the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Organization.
4. Supervise the creation or dissolution of every sector, unit, branch, office, and representation in the organization.
5. Supervise the signing of contracts and the organization's domestic and foreign purchases.
6. Supervise the other affairs for which the organization is responsible and carries out by law.
7. Report systematically and continually on affairs in the organization to the exalted leader and the three powers in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Note One. The chief of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Organization will be responsible for carrying out the reforms proposed by the Supervisory Council documented by law, and he must observe the reforms proposed by this council in the proper enforcement of the law.

Note Two. The chief of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Organization, his deputies, and the units, sectors, branches, representative offices outside the country, and other entities affiliated with the organization must cooperate with the Supervisory Council and its representatives in the precise implementation of their duties, and provide them with the information and documents they request.

Article Four. In the event that the chief of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Organization does not heed the notices and reform advice of the Supreme Supervisory Council and if he does not prevent violations, deviations, and abuses in the organization, and if he does not implement the reform advice of the Supreme Supervisory Council, the Supreme Supervisory Council will report officially to the exalted leader and the three powers of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the chief of the organization's lack of cooperation, along with a complete report on the improper conduct, violations, and deviations in the organization so the necessary decisions may be taken regarding the situation in observation of Article 175 of the Constitution by the competent legal authorities.

Note One. If the chief of the organization does not heed the notices and views of the Supreme Supervisory Council that have a financial aspect, and if he ignores the council's views, his actions will be regarded as illegal possession of government property and he will be prosecuted accordingly.

Note Two. The aforementioned report from the Supreme Supervisory Council will be read to the Majles by a Majles deputy with special weekly membership on the Supreme Supervisory Council.

Article Five. With the enactment of this law, the supervision of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Organization will be dissolved and all the resources, credits, and personnel of this council will be turned over to the Supreme Supervisory Council.

Article Six. The credit needed to implement this law will be obtained by the end of the year from the credits allocated in the 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] Budget Law to the former Supervisory Council.

Note One. Each year the government must provide the credit needed by the Supreme Supervisory Council in the form of assistance on a separate line in the nation's annual budget law.

Note Two. All or part of any laws in conflict with this law are null and without effect.

Note Three. This law from the day of ratification must be carried out.

Session for Monday 16 July—At the public Majles session chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, the entire Economic Saboteur Penalties Law was approved.

In this session, the single-urgency motion on the Economic Saboteur Penalties Law for the nation's economic system was proposed.

Seyyed Mohammad Asghari, expert on the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission, gave explanations concerning this law. He said: This law was discussed and studied in the commission, and invitations were issued to all parties and officials, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, officials of the Central Bank, the brothers involved in penalties, and the appropriate judicial experts in these matters, and about 20 hours were spent discussing the various dimensions and angles of the situation. Some were opposed and said that we have a law and there is no need for a new one, but in the end a law that consolidates the problems of hoarders, price-gougers, and economic saboteurs was approved and confirmed in the commission.

The urgency of the matter was proposed on the issue of fighting economic saboteurs, and the judicial power also said that in some cases we have no law, and really, in some of the areas treated in this law the law was not clear. The situation is plainly presented in this law. It treats the general topics of disruption of the distribution system and the money and finance system, disruption in the foreign exchange and production and distribution systems, wholesale smuggling of foreign exchange, money and large amounts of money in the form of limited partnerships.

He said: What I must say in this regard is that although there was no lack of law in the minds of some representatives and members of the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission, the laws were scattered. Now, in the time of reconstruction and as we face problems following the earthquake, if during the time of reconstruction the judicial power does not have clear laws and if it cannot take a direct approach, one of the pillars in the edifice of our affairs will be broken, and if the judicial power does not have specific penalties, it will create problems.

The Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission expert said: This law deals more with wholesale monopolies and hoarding, and it is mostly for swindlers and major and wholesale price-gougers. Likewise, the acute problem of the limited partnership companies was raised. They collect funds from the people in the form of deposits to use for activities that really put the government into difficulties. This matter was illustrated in the potato episode, and here the explanation was given that some people went and paid 20-30 tomans per kilogram to growers not to harvest their potatoes.

The grain question was made especially clear in the newspapers, mostly in the newspaper KEYHAN, which said that three or four of these companies could join forces to control the Tehran market. They collected grains and marketed them three weeks later at twice the price.

It is clear that in light of the inflation we have, the judiciary, the executive, and the legislative powers need to work in unity. It was for this reason that the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission put aside many proposals and bills in the queue because of the urgency of this matter, and discussed this proposal. As the commission expert, I thank the respected members of the commission and the experts who worked on the commission for their efforts. I hope that the judicial power will grant careful favor to this matter and put this task in the hands of judges who can perceive the dimensions of the problem and the necessity of dealing with violators. Then opponent and supporter spoke and after comments by the government's representative and the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission expert, the entire proposal was put to a vote and passed by a majority.

Session of 17 July at the public session of the Majles chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, the Bill to Amend the National Budget of 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] was approved.

At this session, the details of the Bill to Amend the National Budget of 1369 was presented in the presence of members of the Council of Guardians and proposals on Article One and the credit lines were discussed and studied.

First Jahangiri proposed amendments to paragraphs A and B and the credit on line 312000 on increasing higher education and research. This proposal was put to a vote and was approved as follows:

Note. Paragraph A. Credit from line 312000 will be added on a case-by-case basis to the total credits for the pertinent executive organizations, as proposed jointly by the Plan and Budget Organization, the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education.

Paragraph B. Credit on Line 503127. After the law is passed, the wages of government workers in the Majles, as proposed by the Plan and Budget Organization and the Council of Ministers, are to be added to the total credit for the relevant organizations.

After that, several deputies proposed that credit for rebuilding the areas stricken by the war and earthquakes be doubled.

'Abdol'alizadeh and Rahbari spoke as opponent and supporter for this proposal, and the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization gave commentary. Then a vote was taken on the motion and it was approved as follows:

To expedite implementation of projects to rebuild and put in new construction in the war-stricken areas and to rebuild areas damaged by the nation's various disasters as provided in Note 31 and Paragraph Six Part One of Note Six of the National Budget Law for 1369, in the event that these projects come up short on credit and foreign exchange because of physical progress and the ability to attract more power, authorization is given, as proposed by the Plan and Budget Organization and as approved by the Council of Ministers, for credits for the year 1369 on the credit lines mentioned to be increased to a maximum of twice the amount in the 1369 Budget Law through economizing, and $300 million is allocated for needs arising from earthquakes to the earthquake-stricken areas, to be obtained by increasing surplus foreign exchange income to Table One in Part 11 of the National Budget Law for 1369.

Session of 18 July at the public session of the Majles chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, the National Economic Saboteur Penalties Law was enacted.

At this session, initially the Majles continued deliberations on the National Economic Saboteur Penalties Law, and proposals from the deputies on the proposal's paragraphs and notes were made. Finally Article One and its paragraphs and notes were put to a vote and approved as follows:

National Economic Saboteur Penalties Law

Article One. Any of the acts given in the paragraphs below will be treated as crimes and the perpetrator will be sentenced to the penalties given in this law.

A. Disruption in the nation's monetary and foreign exchange system, such as minting counterfeit coins or currency notes, or their wholesale importation and distribution, domestically or from abroad.

B. Disruption in the distribution of public necessities, such as large price-gouging on food or other public necessities, wholesale hoarding of food or the aforementioned necessities, speculating on large quantities of agricultural produce and other products needed by the public for the purpose of creating a monopoly or a shortage in marketing.

C. Disruption in the nation's production system such as major abuses in the unauthorized sales of technical equipment and raw materials on the free market or violations of commitments concerning those items, or the wholesale taking and giving of bribes in the matter of production or in obtaining production authorization in cases where this causes deviation in the nation's production policies.

D. Wholesale smuggling of foreign exchange, cultural works, and other wealth from any part of the country, even if it does not lead to their export, will be treated as smuggling, and all the foreign exchange, cultural works, and other wealth collected for export will be considered smuggling and will be confiscated for the government's use.

E. Collecting large amounts of money as deposits from legal or salaried persons in the capacity of a limited partnership and such things which lead to the embezzlement of the assets of the people or disruption in the economic system.

F. The organization of a gang or an organization to cause disruption in the export system in any form, including fraud in depositing a foreign exchange contract or payment, and fraud in the pricing of export goods.

Note One. In determining the meaning of the terms wholesale, large and large quantities given above in each of the above paragraphs, in addition to considering the level of losses caused, the amounts misused, and the other corrupt effects, judges may, as needed, seek the views of an appropriate authority.

Note Two. In each of the above instances, if the disruption is done to oppose the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran or to damage it, the perpetrator will be condemned to death. Otherwise, he will be sentenced to five to 20 years imprisonment, and in both cases the court will order as a penalty the confiscation of all assets obtained through the disruption. In addition to the financial penalties and the imprisonment, the court may sentence the violator to 20 to 75 lashes in public.

Note Three. In cases where the crimes mentioned in each of the above instances in the five paragraphs of Article One do not meet the criteria for wholesale, large and large quantities, the perpetrator will be sentenced to two to five years imprisonment, and all the assets obtained through the violation of the law will be confiscated as a cash fine.

Note Four. In cases where the above measures are taken by a legal individual or individuals, whether private parties or government employees, or by organizations, cooperatives, or other, the person or persons involved knowingly, deliberately, directly, as a participant or involved in any way will be sentenced to the penalties provided in the paragraphs, and in such instances the manager or the managers and in general the official or the officials and the relevant inspector or inspectors who were aware that these things were being done and took no effective action or who remained silent will be treated as accessories to the crime, and will be sentenced as indicated to the penalties provided.

Note Five. Penalties for attempting the crimes given at the beginning of Note Two of this law will be one to three years imprisonment and a 500,000 to five million rial cash fine. The penalties for attempting the crime given in the last part of this note will be six months to two years imprisonment and a 250,000 to 2,500,000 rial cash fine. The penalties for attempting the crime given in Note Three of this law are six months to one year and a half imprisonment and a 200,000 to one million rial cash fine.

Note Six. Perpetrators of the crimes given in Notes Two and Five of this law and all their partners and assistants, in addition to the penalties provided according to the case, will be permanently barred from any kind of government and government organization employment.

Note Seven. None of the penalties given in this law can be waived and likewise neither the death penalty, the monetary fines, nor the permanent disqualification for government and government organization employment may be reduced or reversed.

Note Eight. Investigation of all the crimes mentioned in this law will be within the jurisdiction of the public prosecutors and Islamic revolutionary courts, and the public prosecutors, and the courts mentioned with regard to the crimes given in Note One of this law must give priority treatment to these cases.

Note Nine. As of the date of this law's required enforcement, all laws in conflict with it, except those laws providing harsher penalties than those given in this law, are void.

*Punishment Plan Detailed

90AS0345N Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 1 Aug 90 p 24

[Text] At the last pre-holiday public Majles session, the National Economic Saboteur Penalties Law was enacted.

Although this has been under discussion since the early years of the revolution, and in this regard various laws were enacted in the first and second terms of the Majles because of the opposition of a school of thought that opposes government involvement as a third party in distribution and trade. Unfortunately, although this thinking existed in the various organizations of the Islamic Republic, it could not serve as a restraint on the profiteering activities of capitalists and prevent the rule of capitalism, so that last year the peak of the rule of capital was seen in the episode of the government's control of foreign exchange rates and the potato shortage, showing the private sector's extraordinary power to maneuver against government decisions. In another instance, several limited partnerships, in a premeditated measure, bought almost all the cotton of Gorgan, disrupting the distribution of this strategic product in the country. Numerous other instances involving grain, rice, and other things have created problems for the country and imposed economic pressure on the people.

It is necessary to explain that most of the economic pressure arises from shortages of products and malfunctions in the distribution system, and definitely the economic problems will not be solved unless reforms are made in both of these areas. If there is no production, there can be no proper system of distribution either, and even if there is, it will not have a high level of efficiency. The other side is more doubtful, however. When there is no proper system of distribution and its control, if there is low production existing wealth collects in the hands of a small group, and if there is more production more benefits will accrue to the capitalists resulting in deeper class divisions, and then economic poverty will take on an uglier form.

If the nation's officials, instead of establishing money and finance policies aimed at reducing profits in the service and distribution sectors and recovering the funds plundered by plunderers and finding ways to increase profitability in the agriculture sector and the nation's needed industries and mining, think only of greater production, seeing that as the only way to solve the nation's problems, and even see that as the way to establish economic justice, certainly justice will never be established.

In solving the nation's economic problems and using existing solutions, the nation's officials have adopted two types of approaches. One group believes that to confront the existing situation the government ought solely to make use of economic methods, including raising production and increasing the level of the marketing of products to take opportunities for abuse away from profiteers, and another group relies on the idea that in the short term there is no possibility for rapid growth in domestic production or earning enormous amounts of foreign exchange to import products needed by the country in large quantities, and they have also proposed other solutions such as punishments for economic saboteurs for the sort term.

What is clear is that the ultimate solution under the current circumstances is to establish a balance between supply and demand, but in the nation's current circumstances, whose prominent features are the shortage of supply (because of stagnated production and the flow of the nation's workers into the service sector) and increased demand (because of population growth and the existing consumer culture) purely economic solutions are in no way adequate, especially since after 11 years of continued struggle against world imperialism and taking on the heavy load of eight years of the imposed war, the government does not have the foreign exchange backing to be able to saturate the domestic market with imported consumer goods, not to mention the fact that even if it could do this, the matter of fanning the flames of the consumer atmosphere in society and saturating the market with consumer goods through imports is debatable and questionable.

Under such circumstances, along with the economic solutions there must be guarantees of success in this matter through judicial solutions, and the nation's lawful investments must be driven into production through the creation of a suitable atmosphere. Indeed, as long as the service sector is highly profitable and there is no law to stop the profiteers, the situation will continue as it is with more than 50 percent of the nation's labor force in the service sector and the rest either unemployed or employed in agriculture and industry. It is thus not a matter of saying that the country ought not to move in the direction of production, for indeed this is the only path to economic growth, but the question is, is it possible to guide the nation's investment into production without laws that stop the profiteers? Islam does not obstruct the growth of production and society's income, indeed it regards this as a necessity for the health of society, but before that it advises having a proper system to establish social justice. Emam Sadeq (peace be upon him) says concerning this: "There are three things all the people need: security, justice, and abundance."

Here it is necessary to note that economic solutions must be presented very carefully because of the abnormal conditions and excessive profits in the distribution system, and they must be carried out with thorough supervision. For example, huge finances must be put into this sector so that investments being guided into production will be followed by the redistribution of wealth and social justice, but this law must be accompanied by a thorough monitoring of prices to keep the dangerous process of "tax transfers" from imposing more problems in the form of increasing inflation on other individuals in society.

Just as was mentioned, so far in the area of penalties for economic saboteurs a number of laws were passed in the first and second sessions of the Majles concerning the confiscation of assets obtained through profiteering, how to implement Article 49 of the Constitution, penalties for hoarders and price-gougers and intensifying these penalties, penalties for smugglers of foreign exchange, penalties for violators in the printing and publication of currency notes and others, but they were not enforced. The reasons for this may be listed as follows:

1. The existence of a school of thought in the Islamic Republic that the government does not have the right to intervene in this matter. The existence of this very school of thought has caused much confusion in the country. An example concerns the Labor Law, which has not yet been enacted, and we have seen the Hoarder Penalties Law. It was enacted but at the same time the prime minister announced in an interview that this law was devoid of good qualities and was not enforceable because no no one hoards dates, barley, or raisins. What is being hoarded is construction materials (iron and cement), electrical home appliances, spare parts for industrial and agricultural machinery, raw materials for production, and other things which are not mentioned in the law, for the law was enacted exclusively in regard to six items. Of course, with intervention by his holiness the imam (peace be upon him) and discussing the need for full government involvement and supervision in economic affairs, adherents to this school of thought accepted it, but they opposed much government intervention because of the discernment of interests, and this caused the formation of the Expediency Discernment Council and the insertion of this organization in the Constitution.

2. The existence of individuals at various decision-making levels in the country who do not believe in the efficiency of judicial solutions in this matter and who for this reason have not taken steps to employ these solutions. Consequently, the good and usable laws that existed in this area have remained unused. It must be mentioned that if this time also the law falls into the hands of enforcement officials who do not believe at all in these solutions, it will be pointless to expect it to be enforced, and the law will be relegated to the file cabinets.

The nation's officials must use people to enforce these laws who properly understand the nation's current circumstances and who realize that economic projects alone cannot achieve reform in economic affairs.

Just as the achievements during the last year of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government have shown, however much very basic steps have been proposed to reform economic mechanisms, the problem of economic saboteurs remains in the nation's total economic system, and pressure from this group continues to lash the backs of the people and the deprived of society.

After the speech by the speaker of the Majles on 1 April concerning the need to struggle against economic saboteurs, the chief of the judiciary cited the lack of law as the reason for the failure to deal with them, and many opponents of this proposal have tried especially mischievously to blame all the problems on the former government while approving the project, calling for the trial and punishment of former officials, yet according to existing statistics, the amount of currency in circulation in the private sector is several times the size of the current budget, and with this backing the private sector can easily stand against the government's economic decisions.

In any case, it is not a question of whether the economic terrorists are from the government sector or the private sector. The question is whether or not they should be dealt with severely. Now, even with the existence of scattered laws in this matter, which would solve many problems if they were enforced, a new law called the National Economic Saboteur Penalties Law has been enacted. A heavy responsibility has been laid on the shoulders of the judicial power, and it must take an effective step in this direction by appointing qualified judges with a proper understanding of this law and the need to enforce it. Otherwise, if the enforcement of this law, as in the past, is not done with determination and decisiveness, it will not be effective.

3. A final point we must mention concerns the essence of the law itself. In many parts of this law mention is made of wholesale smuggling, bribery, abuses, distribution of foreign exchange and currency, receiving huge amounts of funds, price-gouging on a vast scale and wholesale hoarding, and in none of these instances is there mention of the distinction between wholesale and minor occurrences, yet the authority for this determination is the lawmaker, and the deputies unfortunately have paid no attention to this. Likewise in Note Two of this law it says: "If the violation is done against the government of the Islamic Republic or to damage at, the perpetrator will be condemned to death and otherwise...." Here also a vague subject, "against the government," is not explained, and any criminal could escape punishment by abusing this paragraph.

In this matter, it appears that the respected deputies must complete the law with an amendment so that on the one hand the responsibilities of the judiciary will be clearly specified and on the other hand those who seek in various ways to prevent implementation of this law will be stopped. The Majles deputies have another responsibility. After they amend and approve the law they must carefully monitor its enforcement lest this law also be forgotten after a time, leaving not a trace behind.

*Election of Assembly of Experts Begins

*90AS0360C London KEYHAN in Persian
23 Aug 90 p 2*

[Text] Registration of applicants for participation in the elections of the Assembly of Experts of the regime of the Islamic Republic will be carried out from 6-20 Shahrivar [28 August-11 September], and the election to select 83 members of the above-mentioned assembly will take place on 16 Mehr [8 October]. The quota for every province in the Assembly of Experts is as follows:

Tehran, 15 persons; Khorasan, eight persons; Eastern Azarbaijan (Tabriz), seven persons; Mazandaran, six persons; Esfahan, five persons; Khuzestan, five persons; Fars, five persons; Western Azarbaijan (Reza'iyyeh), three persons; Zanjan, three persons; Kerman, three persons; Gilan, three persons; Lorestan, three persons; Kermanshah, two persons; Sistan va Baluchestan, two persons; Kordestan, two persons; Central, two persons; Hamadan, two persons; and the Provinces of Ilam, Bushehr, Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari, Semnan, Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad, Hormozgan and Yazd, one person each.

Voters must be at least 15 years of age.

The said members will be elected for an eight-year term. The period of service of the first Assembly of Experts of the regime is from Esfand 1361 to 30 Bahman 1369 [20 February 1983-19 February 1991].

*RESALAT Reports on 16 Jul Majles Session

90AS0303A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Jul 90 p 5

[Text]

Sume'eh Sara Deputy: Reconstruction of Quake-Stricken Areas Requires the Special Attention of the People, the Government, and the Majles

Mr. Ranjbar, representing the Sume'eh Sara constituency, was the first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. At the onset, he began by praising the sacred spirit of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and offering his condolences to the survivors of the earthquake in Gilan and Zanjan provinces.

Also in this connection, he thanked the exalted leadership for visiting and sympathizing with the quake victims and said: After eight years of imposed war the country requires reconstruction in various dimensions. In this regard, the esteemed government and the Majles have considered to put in their schedules the necessary budget in conjunction with the utilization of other required facilities.

However, reconstruction of the quake-stricken areas of Gilan and Zanjan, due to the climatic and geographic situation of these two provinces, requires the special cooperation of the people, the government, and the Islamic Consultative Majles. The earthquake destroyed over 100,000 homes, killed over 60,000 people, and left thousands of wounded and disabled.

The afflicted people are mostly from the deprived and downtrodden strata of the society and are the producers of agricultural and meat and dairy products. Today, these people sit in mourning for their loved ones. They have lost their shelters and, three weeks after the earthquake, they have not been able to receive tents. However, what is worrisome is the plurality of the decision-making authorities and the existence of numerous depots each belonging to an institution or foundation. These must all be combined and be utilized in the service of the quake victims. In two months, the autumn rain season will begin in Gilan and use of tents will be utterly impossible—although, even presently, in some mountain areas the night temperature is so low that tents cannot be used—but the afflicted and deprived people have no choice.

The rice fields belonging to the quake victims are getting ready to be harvested. This is a task that must be performed by them and the harvest has to be stored in storage. However, there are no storage areas left for the afflicted farmers. Tobacco farmers in Gilan province need hothouses in order to dry green tobacco leaves, but the hothouses have been destroyed. According to the statistics provided by the government offices and the tobacco organization of Gilan province, 400 hothouses have been incapacitated. Something must be done quickly for the farmers, and expeditious action must be taken for reconstruction of these hothouses.

He added: Houses are not the only thing that farmers have lost. They have lost other corollaries related to agriculture such as animal husbandry, farming, tobacco, and their other products. At once, they have lost everything. At this time, the only thing that can solve the problems is building materials such as cement, wood, tin, and Iranite [prefabricated roofing material]. By providing the quake victims with these and facilitating long term loans, the temporary housing situation will be resolved. This cannot be done unless the esteemed cabinet issues a decree and allocates 20 percent of the total national building material to the quake victims in the two provinces and, by allocating foreign exchange, import some of the needed material from abroad.

In his reminders to the executive officials, Mr. Ranjbar called on the governor-general of Gilan to supervise the proper implementation of reconstruction efforts and settlements of quake victims. He also suggested that engineering and technical teams be dispatched to the devastated areas for reconstruction of the destroyed places and preparation of plans and maps.

In conclusion, he gave notice to the minister of education and training in regard to supporting the only agricultural and natural resources collage in Gilan province (located in Sume'eh Sara). He also thanked all those who, in one way or another, assisted in sending aid to the quake victims.

Purmohammadi-Fallah: The Quake Victims Have Not Yet Felt the Loneliness Because the Beloved Officials of the Islamic Republic Have Filled in for Their Loved Ones

The second pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Pourmohammadi-Fallah, the representative of the people of Astaneh-Ashrafiyeh. In his remarks, he offered his condolences to the survivors of the recent devastating quake and said: The depth of the calamity is such that—despite all the efforts by the media, broadcasting news, pictures, films, and visits—the reality of the disaster has not been fully recognized and explained for the world public opinion or even our compatriots. Every one of the officials who visited the region, has done so in areas accessible by modes of transportation. In all, they have visited and investigated only a few spots of the vast quake-stricken province.

In another part of his remarks he added: Twenty five days pass from that event. Survivors are still stunned and have not yet felt the loneliness. This is due to the fact that, right after the quake, the emptiness of losing family members was filled with the presence of the popular president, concerned ministers, dedicated officials, basiji forces, and the imam's unknown soldiers and the leader—the permanent friend of the deprived.

Mr. Fallah reminded the officials of the country that: "O Executive officials and His Excellency Mr. Hashemi! Another effort is needed and—before it is late—shacks of thin wood, and mud must be built with the help of the farmers for temporary shelter. These must replace tents so that residents can be saved from the moisture of the dirt and the autumn cold, especially in these areas. Later they should think about essential remedies."

He also added: With deepest regrets and apologies to the deprived people of Rudbar, Emarlu, Kelishum, and other quake-stricken areas, I must mention my own constituency, Astaneh-Ashrafiyeh. The magnitude of the disaster that befell you was such that officials of the country, not even provincial officials, have been able to visit the area in order to soothe your pains and remedy your wounds. About 4,000 families in this city region expect to be honored by the arrival of officials.

It is required that researchers come and observe the effects of the earthquake in the city and outlying areas of Astaneh-Ashrafiyeh. These include the appearance of deep fissures and faults, the filling of local wells, the turning of dirt, surfacing sand residue from the depths of 100 meters, eruption of hot water fountains in the night of the quake, and the disappearing of houses in the earth. This must accompany the presentation of technical views for reconstruction.

I remind the reconstruction officials, especially the governor-generals and the managers of executive organizations, that since you have come to Rudbar city region with the aim of serving the people, if you fail to coordinate with the provincial management in reconstruction and utilization of the facilities of the Moslem Treasury and care in using these facilities, all these efforts will be wasted. This responsibility is on your shoulders. I remind those who accepted the task and participated in the collection of aid, in order to fulfill this trust, they should put them at the disposal of the officials tasked with the reconstruction efforts so that the activities can be concentrated and through one channel. I remind the reconstruction officials to act quickly in order to ensure the health of the environment and construct temporary toilets and showers for farmers—some of whom have yet to bathe.

Hejrati, Qazvin Deputy: It Is the Character of the Regime To Move in the Path of the Guidance of the Exalted Leadership

Mr. Hejrati was the third pre-agenda speaker. At the onset, he praised the sacred spirit of the guide of the time, the late imam of the nation, and the exalted leader of the revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and said: What distinguishes the Islamic Revolution and the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran from revolutions of other nations and their ruling regimes is their link to the Creator and as a result of the dear prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) of Islam, the lord of the faithful (peace be upon him), and his innocent sons (god's peace upon them) and—during the major absence [of the absent imam]—just jurists. For the first time after 14 centuries Islamic rule was established and realized as an undeniable fact by reliance on the absolute guidance of the jurist and led by our late imam (may God place his soul in heaven). During his blessed life and especially during his final days, in meetings with officials or for various reasons, he especially emphasized on this principle, the principle of absolute velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult]. Thanks be to God that today this important task has been assigned to the capable hands of the exalted leader of the revolution, this proper friend of the imam and true analyst of his words.

In regard to the high principle of velayat-e faqih, the speaker said: Indeed, the Islamic Republic regime, which owes its legitimacy to the high principle of velayat-e faqih, knows that with all the might of the system—including the Majles, the government, and the judicial system—separate from it cannot continue its spiritual life without inclination to other systems in the world.

Velayat-e faqih is a principal which, relying on the rich and fruitful school of true Mohammadan Islam, guides the Islamic government in its main path. Like a shining sun, it is placed in the path of world Moslems and depicts the mission of the Islamic nation in confronting the conspiracies of global arrogance and its foreign and domestic agents.

It is well suited to point out the wise statements of the exalted leader of the Islamic Revolution in the meeting with high officials of the regime on the occasion of the blessed Id-e Ghadir. He stated: "Today, anyone who talks and moves in the direction of weakening the Islamic Republic regime will cause his wrongdoing to spread to all Moslem Nations. It must be known that this is not only treacherous toward this nation but also treachery to Islam, various nations, and Islamic history."

I must point out that it is in the character of the regime to move in the path of the guidance of the exalted leadership which are directed, firstly, at the high officials of the Islamic Republic regime—especially the Islamic Consultative Majles—the government, and the judicial system. They must move as a single team which may result only from implementation of general as well as detailed policies of the regime as set forth by the exalted leadership in various forms. Any apathy or slack in this important task will be an unforgivable sin.

Executive managers in the regime of the velayat-e faqih must personify the rule and justice of Imam 'Ali (peace be upon him). If, God forbid, anyone in any shape and position, consciously or otherwise, tries to create doubt concerning obedience to the Guide of the Moslems, which today is personified in the exalted leadership, he must know that he is pouring water on the mills of tyranny of the regime and, consequently, will not have a place in this sacred regime. Such individuals, sooner or later, will exit from the divine political scene of the Islamic Republic—as was the fate of other pawns of arrogance with all their seductive slogans for defending the deprived.

Concerning the formation of the Council of Leadership Experts, he said: Now that the experts of the nation have been holding council in the Imam Khomeyni Mosque since yesterday, it is expected of them—considering the past history—to compose standards and guidelines for election of future Council of Experts in a way that candidates are jurists loyal to leadership. It is the duty of the conscious and Moslem people of Iran to go to the ballot boxes—with full enthusiasm—all across the country and play their fundamental role in view of their repeated covenants with the exalted leader of the revolution during the somewhat more than a year which has passed from the imam's death. They should vote for those whose standards are still based on complete and unquestionable loyalty and adherence to the guidance of the exalted leader of the revolution and Guide of the Moslems. They should have passed this difficult test during this period.

In regard to the recent devastating earthquake in Gilan and Zanjan, the speaker said: I offer my condolences to the Absent Imam and the Guide of the world Moslems, the afflicted families and, especially, the afflicted people of my constituency—the districts of Tarem-e Sofla,...Rudbar (the city region, central sector and Alamut) on the occasion of the sad and painful quake which recently struck Gilan and Zanjan. I ask God for forgiveness for those who were killed and pray for consolation for the survivors.

I am grateful for the aid extended by the government of the Islamic Republic and the support of the ever-present-people-on-the-scene. I welcome and thank other nations of the world for their aid which was extended within the framework of humanitarian sentiments and by safeguarding the political positions of the Islamic Republic regime.

In continuation of his remarks, the representative of the people of Qazvin expressed his appreciation for the trips of the country's high officials, especially the exalted leadership, to the stricken areas and said: The presence of the regime's high officials, especially the exalted leadership, among the victims allayed their endless pains. It was a reminder of the early days of Islam and the presence of the lord of the faithful ['Ali] among the deprived of the Islamic nation and his sympathy for them.

Considering that Iran is in an earthquake region, it is necessary that the esteemed government of His Excellency Mr. Rafsanjani, the popular president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, adopts a correct policy and, by utilizing the experiences of other countries in regard to this natural disaster, creates full preparation. In order to save time, I shall refrain from recounting the statistics of the number of dead and destroyed houses and villages.

Considering the cold climate of the region, concerning the urgency of the need for mass mobilization for reconstruction, the speaker said: As was stated, considering the cold climate and remoteness of the roads, there is an immediate need for mass mobilization to, firstly, ensure temporary settlement and reconstruction of public places such as schools, mosques, and clinics in the cities as well as in the rural areas.

It is appropriate to act upon the assignment of afflicted districts to specific provinces which possess the capabilities. Also, the esteemed provincial officials should pay full attention to all the afflicted citizens and make sure that the news of the Voice and the Vision is reflective of this rather than reflecting specific matters.

Here, I must thank the people and officials of the city of Qazvin for their timely assistance to their afflicted brothers in Lowshan and Manjil on the first day of the quake—despite the fact that they themselves had suffered from the earthquake—and being host to the dear afflicted people of Gilan province.

Concerning the recent suggestion of the head of the judicial branch in regard to the investigation of the recent catastrophe caused by the Al Sa'ud family he said: The Moslem nation had not yet recovered from the loss of the martyrs of the Haj of Abraham in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] when a massive calamity with far-reaching consequences was committed by the American agents, the Al Sa'ud family. By welcoming the suggestion of the esteemed chief of the judiciary, we invite the legal experts among the Islamic nations of the world to dispatch a group to Mecca to investigate the recent disaster of Mina Tunnel so that, in case positive proof of the guilt is established, the American rulers of Al Sa'ud may be tried in a competent international court. If this disaster is the result of negligence, appropriate action should be taken by true Islamic scholars to mange the administration of the two holy shrines.

In continuation of his speech, in regard to the low salaries of civil servants, he addressed the president and said: I direct the attention of the esteemed government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the plight of civil servants. Considering the table, we do not believe the increase of the rial coefficient from 100 to 120 adequate. Nowadays, in order to expedite the process of mass production and reporting on the national economy, it has been decided to allocate competitive and preferential foreign exchange and put it at the disposal of industry leaders, in both public as well as private sectors. This is a commendable decision. This will result in the marketing and sale of consumer goods on the basis of the finished price, while salaries and benefits being paid to civil servants are being calculated based on the government subsidized foreign exchange rate. How can such a huge difference be resolved?

It is hoped that with the cooperation of the esteemed government and the Majles administrative and employment commission a solution can be worked out for this difficulty which will be the basis for correction of the situation of government employees.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Qazvin offered the following memos to the executive officials:

1. I direct the attention of the Ministry of Education and Training to the administrative and education situation of Tehran province, especially the administrative problems in region six.

2. On the day of Id-e Qorban [the Feast of Sacrifices], the esteemed minister of roads and transportation inaugurated the construction of the Qazvin-Zanjan expressway. Considering the previous correspondence and concentration of the population in the northern part of the town, I request that the minister act upon changing the plans to alter the proposed direction of the expressway from north to south of Qazvin in order to safeguard the lives of Qazvin citizens and prevent the occurrence of other similar mistakes in other parts of the country. [as published]

3. To the Roads and Transportation Ministry and the Atomic Energy Organization for determining the correct transportation connecting route in the deprived district of Rudbar-Alamut, which has caused restrictions in the animal husbandry and farming activities of the people of the region. Arrangement should be made so that the people of the region can enjoy a minimum standard of convenience, meaning a proper transportation connecting route.

4. To the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, considering the comprehensive plan approved by the scientific delegation of Dehkhoda Higher Education Complex, to expedite the establishment of Dehkhoda University.

5. Notice given to the minister of reconstruction jihad. To fulfill his promises made after much discussions to appoint capable management in the reconstruction jihad office of Qazvin city region.

6. I express my gratitude to Haj Mohsen Rafiqdust, the esteemed administrator of the Self-Sacrificing Devotees Foundation [Bonyad-e Janbazan], for making the Qazvin unit independent. Also, more assistance and cooperation from the responsible brothers is expected.

Borujerd Deputy: Regarding Incidental Matters We Must Not Forget Our Principles

The forth pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Mohammad Karim Moraveji, representing the Borujerd constituency. He praised the sacred spirit of the late imam, offered his greetings to the exalted leadership, and thanked the Iranian nation and other countries of the world for sending aid to the victims of the earthquake in our country.

He stated: The issue of the earthquake is an incidental one which will pass, but we should not compromise our principles for the sake of it and, God forbid, allow the sore enemies of dear Islam find dominance over the country.

The speaker added: The justification and grandeur of the Islamic revolution is a ray of hope in the hearts of the brave and free nations and the downtrodden, especially the world Moslems. With the help of God Almighty, we must sustain this hope on a daily basis. It is not right that we go here and there in order to solve some of our problems and thus disappoint the dedicated and concerned forces in the world.

Mr. Moraveji added: About a year has passed since the appointment of the esteemed director general of the health and treatment organization of Lorestan Province. Despite the vigor that was demonstrated at the onset, in practice we have seen that the situation of treatment and medicine has taken a turn for the worse. Although he is a project doctor [under one of the government's projects, doctors are sent to the deprived regions of the country, where they must serve a specified term of duty], instead of tending to the pitiful affairs of the deprived people of Lorestan (an example of which is the death of a mother and her newborn in Dorud Hospital after eight hours of indecision), he has decided to decorate his office and has isolated the dedicated forces with the excuse of specialization. If specialization is supposed to be the standard, then he himself must be pushed out in comparison with experienced and capable doctors. We request that the esteemed minister of health, treatment, and medical education investigate his conduct by dispatching a special inspector.

Afrazideh, Nowshahr Deputy: I Request That the Esteemed Chief of the Judiciary Swiftly Fire the Undesirable Elements from Judgeship

Mr. Afrazideh, the deputy from Chalus and Nowshahr, was the last pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. In his remarks, he offered his condolences on the occasion of the devastating earthquake in Zanjan and Gilan Provinces and the martyrdom of the devoted deputy, Mr. Eftekhari, and emphasized:

I am sure these divine tests are but hidden blessings of the Almighty which are not obvious to us. The martyr-nurturing people of Iran, who from the onset of the revolution have not stopped sacrificing their lives and property to safeguard Islam and the revolution, will take steps to reconstruct the stricken regions with their magnanimous spirit and shall settle the affairs of the people of those areas in a most speedy manner.

In another part of his speech, he thanked the minister of reconstruction jihad for his inspection of the deprived region of Fujur District and said: In his inspection, he noted the deprivation of the region and, God willing, he will issue necessary orders to alleviate some of the deprivation in that region. Also, since this dear and concerned brother was short of time and not able to visit the western part of Chalus Mountain to see for himself that that region is even more deprived than Fujur District, we beg for his kindness to issue adequate orders for the electrification of that region.

The speaker then addressed the high officials of the regime and said: You beloved ones have suffered much to insure the victory of the revolution. You have endured the dreadful presence and intolerable tortures of the shah's SAVAK [the shah's secret police] and have spared no sacrifices in your obedience to our late imam. You know better than I that the brave and martyr-nurturing nation of Iran responded to the call of the imam only and only because of religious motivations and realized the victory for the revolution by presenting thousands of sacrifices and enduring many hardships. It has, with all its existence, supported Islam and the Islamic revolution, and will do so in the future.

However, it should be noted that the same people desire the implementation of Islamic justice which is the justice of 'Ali (peace be upon him) and suffer from these unjust discriminations. Our people know that eight years of imposed war have caused severe disarray in the economy and it is not expected that the officials perform miracles. However, the people expect justice and for this reason they revolted. When the people of every city see that favoritism does exist, infamous phone calls are still effective, unjust discriminations and judgments are practiced, and some of the officials ignore them; not only do they disregard our assertions, but they also show their hatred in any way they can.

For how long should the incorrect behavior of some officials be justified? Until when can only speeches be delivered to the people? When the people see that I, as a deputy, or the Friday prayer leader, or officials of organizations and institutions can easily receive building materials that have been rationed with government rates, but the barefoot downtrodden who live in the city or village and have no tongues to object nor the power to complain can never get the same materials, how will they judge this?

There are many people, in religious cloak or revolutionary attire, who have built castles with the same rationed building materials. Some who have possessed much land with many tricks and gained wealth contrary to the esteemed families of martyrs, combatants, and the disabled who are in need of the essentials and say with astonishment, "why and for what reasons are all these materials given to these people?!" The high officials of the regime must swiftly confront these injustices and try the abusers.

In another part of his speech, referring to the appointment of experts to jobs that require expertise, he said: For the educated, intelligent, and healthy elderly—who enjoy higher education and possess the required dedication, strong management skills, and experience—it is difficult to see a newly hired individual who lacks adequate experience or does not possess the expertise or the dedication and is instead a person of pretensions and flattery to be the administrator of their organization. They may tolerate the situation as a sign of respect for Islam, the revolution, and the regime, but certainly they will not be able to do their best.

Respected President! Tell your cabinet ministers to set the standards as specialization, dedication, and piety and refrain from "cliquish" games and factionalism. When they find educated, worthy, and dedicated individuals who are not prone to flattery and pretension, they should appoint them to key responsibilities and posts. Even for management in factories, capable individuals must be selected. It is not correct that in a factory full of engineers and educated specialists, a high school graduate is picked as their boss for his lack of expertise and incompetance. Such persons lose themselves and have the worst dispositions.

He then remarked: I request that the exalted leadership select a special commission composed of experienced and dedicated individuals to be dispatched to various cities in order to get in touch with the people of the cities and villages rather than contacting the officials. They should find out the things that upset the people and the officials with whom the people are not satisfied. After composing a report, those disruptive elements and officials who have caused dissatisfaction must be swiftly removed so that the people's greatest problem is resolved by the exalted leadership. The reason so many complaints are being sent to the exalted leadership by the people is due to the fact that they have lost hope from all other places and have banked on and referred to their last hope which is the exalted leadership.

Mr. Afrazideh also mentioned that the situation in the judicial system is not congruent with the Islamic revolution and said: With all due respect to the just, pious, and selfless judges, I must say that many judges who occupy the chambers of judgeship are not suited and their mere existence in the judicial system deals a harsh blow against the dedicated and sincere judges and causes them to be branded with disrespect. My suggestion to the esteemed chief of the judiciary is that, through coordination with the Majles deputies who have absolute dominance in their constituencies and the informed clergy, swiftly remove the unsuitable elements from the sacred position of judgeship. Thus, the lives, the property, and the honor of the people will be entrusted to honest, just, and informed individuals who possess an inherent talent for judgeship. By solving the issue of justice in the country a great part of the people's problems will be resolved as well.

After 12 years from the victory of the revolution, still the fate of many properties and groves in Mazandaran have not yet been resolved and many are controlled by institutions [of the revolution] as confiscations. Many properties belonging to the escapees have not yet even been confiscated and are changing hands through dealers and land sharks with special gimmicks and maneuvers which have made them millionaires. The chief of the judicial system should order that the situation of these lands be clarified, the opportunist land-sharks should be arrested and tried, and all these windfalls must be taken from them.

In conclusion, he added: I request that the esteemed speaker of the Majles make whatever arrangements he sees fit in order to clarify the position of the Majles deputyship. And this must be explained to the people. Some dear colleagues have launched on certain paths—such as visiting this minister and that executive official in order to gain more favors for their constituents, acting as go-betweens, and engaging in intercessions and etc.—that are disgraceful to the sacred duty of deputyship which is composition of laws and the supervision of their correct implementation. Such activities must be halted before it is too late.

Nepal & Bhutan

Divisions, Opposition Said To Delay Constitution

BK0609171890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 6 Sep 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 6 (AFP)—Nepal's new constitution, expected to be presented to King Birendra for his approval on Thursday, has been delayed, sources close to a special constitutional commission said. A source close to the Constitution Recommendation Commission (CRC), who did not want to be identified, said the constitution was held up for last-minute changes in the basic format.

The changes included the question of voting in a multiparty system, the position of the monarchy and whether a two-thirds majority was needed for passing legislation in parliament. The earlier draft included mention of the multiparty system and the monarchy, but the issues were dropped because of strong reaction in the local press and political circles, the high-placed source said.

CRC Chairman Biswo Nath Upadhyay wrote to the Royal Palace and the Council of Ministers asking when the newly drafted constitution would be presented. The tenure of the CRC was to expire at midnight Thursday unless the king extended it until the draft constitution is delivered.

The Council of Ministers, headed by Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, was holding a marathon meeting to discuss the issue and was expected to meet with the king. The new constitution is to provide the voting rights for Nepalese over age 18, putting the number of eligible voters in the country at 10.5 million. They are to elect 175 representatives to the lower house from 75 districts. Elections are planned for April 1991.

Sovereignty would be vested in the public, while the monarch would remain only the head of state. The Royal Army would be under the control of a national defence council headed by the prime minister. The Judicial Council, also headed by the prime minister, would appoint the chief justice of the Supreme Court and other justices until their retirement at age 65.

The general public would be given fundamental rights, including the right to information, freedom of expression and freedom of the press. Anyone could set up a new political party but would have to secure at least five percent of the total vote cast in a general election to be recognized as a national party.

Only the queen and the reigning monarch's sons and daughters would hold special royal titles, while other relations would have no privileges or titles, the source said. Meanwhile, the Marxist-Leninist and two pro-Soviet Communist party factions, represented in the interim post-revolution government, demanded in a statement that the draft of the constitution be approved without any changes or amendments by the king.

In their statements broadcast over state radio, they also urged the king to extend the mandate of the CRC until the constitution is accepted. They warned that any attempt to change the draft would invite another movement in the country and would be a "conspiracy against the popular will, which the people will never tolerate."

Commission Completes Draft Constitution 6 Sep

BK0609170690 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] The Constitution Recommendations Commission has requested his majesty the king to fix the day and time for the submission of a draft constitution along with suggestions prepared by the Commission. According to a press communique issued in Kathmandu today by the Constitution Recommendations Committee, the request was made by the Commission as all its work including printing has been completed. The communique says that the draft constitution has been completed within the stipulated time and that the time had been extended till today for printing of the draft along with suggestions. His majesty the king had constituted the Constitution Recommendations Commission on May the 30th 1990 to prepare a draft of the constitution for the consolidation of constitutional monarchy and multi-party democracy and to submit along with its suggestions within three months.

Pakistan

President Issues Ordinance Amending Criminal Laws

BK0609060090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance whereby the provisions of the Pakistan Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure regarding offenses against human body—murder and hurt—having brought in conformity with injunctions of Islam relating to precise ambit as laid down in the holy Koran and Sunnah [prophet's teachings] in pursuance of the judgment of the Sharia [Islamic law] appellate bench of the Supreme Court. The ordinance—The Criminal Law, Second Amendment, Ordinance 1990—shall come into force on the 12th Rabiul Awwal [3 October] 1411 hegira.

Official Denies Deal Offered to Bhutto

BK0609155890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] An official spokesman today categorically dismissed the impression that the government has offered any deal to the former prime minister to persuade her to give up politics. Commenting on reports published in certain sections of the press today, the spokesman said the government has been giving assurances at the highest level from time to time that it will conduct elections in a free and fair manner in which everybody will be allowed to take part in accordance with law. Similarly, the spokesman added, it has been explained time and again that elections are a political process while the accountability is a legal one. Since these two processes will be completed separately, the question of any deal does not arise at all. The process of accountability will be conducted in accordance with law, and any government representative found guilty of misconduct will have to undergo this process.

The spokesman pointed out that the government has not authorized any of its representatives to hold talks with the former prime minister, and if anyone has met her he must have done so in his personal capacity. The government on its part does not intend to enter into any deal in connection with the process of accountability.

Former Habib Bank Officials Arrested

BK0709035790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Sep 90 p 1, 15

[By Iqbal Mirza]

[Text] Karachi, Sept 5—The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested Mr. Safdar Abbas Zaidi, former President and Mr. Younus Habib, Chief of Sindh province, Habib Bank Limited [HBL] for sanctioning unsecured loans worth billions of rupees on political considerations.

Mr. Zaidi was sacked immediately after the takeover by the caretaker government. He suffered a heart attack and is now admitted in the Aga Khan Hospital where he is under custody of the FIA.

Similarly Mr. Younus Habib, Sindh provincial chief of HBL, who was in fact, the de facto president of the bank was arrested by the FIA yesterday.

The FIA hopes to arrest several top bankers who were involved in advancing huge amounts to people on the recommendation and even telephonic instructions of those who had links in the former Prime Minister's House.

According to FIA sources, Mr. Zaidi was involved in the scandal of sanctioning loans without obtaining proper securities worth billions of rupees, including Rs. 300 million loan for Mr. Fauzi Ali Kazmi for setting up chain of Duty Free Shops. Mr. Kazmi, a close friend of Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, husband of former Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto, is now under arrest and facing a trial.

It was further reported here that chiefs of at least three nationalised banks are being interrogated by the FIA to find out the irregularities and violations of banking rules in giving loans during the 20 month tenure of Benazir's government.

All records and documents relating to loans given during the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government have been sealed. The investigating agencies are believed to have detained about a dozen officers of banks and financial institutions in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar for questioning.

The number of cases which they are investigating run into hundreds. Investigations so far have revealed that the PPP leaders were given huge loans by the government setting aside the banking rules and regulations.

The FIA is also investigating allegations of fraud and embezzlement in the funds of People's Works Programme. It is said that the embezzlement in these funds run into millions of rupees.

The FIA has also started a probe into the sanction of a loan of Rs. 670 million given to Avari Towers and $16 million sanctioned in favour of Mr. Hakim Ali Zardari, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the former National Assembly and father-in-law of the former Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto by head of international operations of Habib Bank Limited.

It is alleged that Mr. Abdul Aziz Sakrani, Chairman, Pakistan Banking Council on the instructions of Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, has summoned heads of all the nationalised banks and advised to contribute towards a loan of Rs. 670 million in favour of Avari Towers. The heads of the nationalised financial institutions willingly obliged by purchasing zero price shares which were later on adjusted towards the loan amount which was sanctioned without obtaining proper collateral security.

Thus a gross violation of the rules and regulations was committed by the bankers in this case.

Similarly the head of international operations of Habib Bank Limited had allegedly sanctioned $16 million to Mr. Hakim Ali Zardari without properly securing the loan.

FIA is probing further to unearth all the details relating to these cases.

Paper on Bhutto Misuse of Intelligence Agencies

BK0709035990 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Sep 90 p 16

[By Shahid Saleem]

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 5—The deposed PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Premier had directed her intelligence agencies to minimise the image of the President of Pakistan and the Chief of Army Staff [COAS] and enhance efforts to promote her party politics, reliable sources told this correspondent.

Like her father, deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto also used intelligence agencies to direct PPP efforts in by-elections as well as to create an information policy based on principles of psychological warfare.

The officials of caretaker government have found some documents of Intelligence Bureau which also contained reports by Intelligence Bureau Chief Noor Leghari and Joint Director Masood Sharif.

According to these reports the deposed premier had also directed to her IB aides to "organise and finance" processions against the freedom movement in occupied Kashmir against Indian occupation and Jihad struggle by Mujahidin in Afghanistan. In this connection, according to sources, a note from the Prime Minister's Secretariat to the then ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence] chief has also been discovered the directive suggested that "peace processions" should be organised throughout Pakistan to undermine the mood of Pakistani people for Jihad in Afghanistan and Held Kashmir.

These reports indicate the involvement of official machinery in controlling MNAs [Members of National Assembly] during and after the no-confidence motion. Some MNAs were paid from secret fund of I.B. while others were pressured through different means.

During the by-election in NA [National Assembly] 99, early this year, the then intelligence machinery was used to ensure that JUP [Jamiat-I-Ulema-I-Pakistan] candidate, Maulana Alwari does not withdraw so that votes of IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] candidates are divided.

Throughout the by-election campaign the I.B. was asked to apply 'active measures' so that various political players were made to take specific steps, considered beneficial to the PPP.

In February this year, sources said, the Intelligence Bureau was assigned an unusual task by the deposed Prime Minister to ensure that the public profile of the President and the Chief of Army Staff was not enhanced in a positive manner. In one particular report, dated 26-2-90, according to these sources, the then Joint Director criticised showing President Ghulam Isaq Khan's visit to Hyderabad on television after the "Pakka Qila massacre". The television news had shown the President and the Chief of Army Staff listening to the grievances of the people of Hyderabad. The intelligence report, in response to Benazir's directive said that showing the President and COAS amongst the people unnecessarily enhanced the prestige of both whereas the Prime Minister had not gone to Hyderabad and could not be shown as being sympathetic to the people. The report suggested that government's information policy should be so directed that neither the President nor the COAS are shown on TV amongst the general public.

Libya Industrial Delegation Meets With Officials

BK3108143590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] A Libyan industrial delegation has held talks with the officials of the Ministry of Industries in Islamabad on bilateral cooperation in the industrial field. The Libyan delegation showed interest in setting up joint venture projects. It also evinced keen interest in exploring the possibility of establishing a spare parts manufacturing unit to supply materials to Libyan industries. The Pakistani side welcomed the Libyan idea and said that it would convey its response after examining the possibilities, so that the projects could be discussed at the next meeting of the joint ministerial commission.

7,000 Citizens Return From Kuwait, Iraq via Iran

BK0709101890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] So far, nearly 7,000 Pakistanis have returned home from Kuwait and Iraq via Taftan. Pakistan Railway has made an arrangement to run a special train daily to bring the Pakistanis back from Taftan.

Sri Lanka

Government To Send Food to Nationals in Jordan

BK0709100490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0859 GMT 7 Sep 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 7 (LANKAPUVATH)—The government has decided to despatch food items to Sri Lankans stranded in Jordanian deserts to save them from starvation. "The logistics are now being worked out with the Foreign Affairs Ministry and Lankan consulate in Amman," Labour and Social Welfare Ministry Secretary Justin Dias told this morning. This move by the Lankan authorities comes in the wake of reports from Jordan that thousands of Lankans along with other Asians stranded in the vast deserts on the Kuwait-Jordan border are now undergoing immense hardship without food and water.

Meanwhile, Labour and Social Welfare Minister G.M. Premachandra, who is in the Middle East is in touch with Jordanian and Iraqi authorities for the evacuation of Lankans from the trouble-torn West Asia. So far, only a little over 2,000 out of the nearly 100,000 Lankans employed in Kuwait have been flown back to the country through the courtesy of the Foreign Ministry, which offered generous terms to the kith and kin to get those stranded people back home.

A REUTERS report from Ruweished in Jordan dated Thursday quoted a young Lankan woman who said that she was raped by an Iraqi soldier. Some other eyewitnesses of Lankan origin, too, have told REUTERS of incidents of rape on Lankan women by the invading Iraqi soldiers.

Opposition, President Discuss Fighting in North

BK0409125390 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] A delegation led by Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, leader of the opposition, and composed of the SLCP [Sri Lanka Communist Party], LSSP [Lanka Sama Samaj Party], NLSSP [Nava Lanka Sama Samaj Party], Liberal Party, SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom party], EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front], DPLF [expansion unknown], TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front], DVJP, DNP, SETC, DMP, NUWCP, [expansions unknown], and SLMP [Sri Lanka Mahajana Party] met President Premadasa at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday.

The delegation urged that all measures be taken to improve the supply of food, fuel, and medicine to the people in the affected areas, especially in the Jaffna peninsula, and to exercise caution in directing military operations so as to minimize civilian casualties.

In the discussion that followed, all aspects of the problem were explained and examined. The minister of state for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, assured the delegation that all care has been taken to avoid casualties and that at no stage have the authorities resorted to carpet bombing. It was agreed that a committee consisting of the minister of state for defense, minister of food and cooperatives, minister of reconstruction, rehabilitation and social welfare, and minister for health and women's affairs would meet selected representatives of the delegation and review every week the problems and progress with regard to humanitarian issues. It was also agreed that district committees will be set up to monitor the arrangements made for the welfare of refugees. The president thanked the delegation for its cooperation.

Curfew Begins in Three Tamil Districts 1 Sep

BK0109081090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has imposed an indefinite curfew this morning on three Tamil districts in the northern part of the island. Military officials said in Colombo that the step has been to enable troops to conduct operations against Tamil militants. The three district are Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, and Mannar. Curfew has also been clamped in Kilinochchi. Officials gave no details of the planned military operations. Meanwhile, 12 people, including six Tamil militants and four soldiers, have been killed in the northern and eastern parts of the country since yesterday.

Six Soldiers Killed in Vaviniya LTTE Ambush

BK0509115090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0928 GMT 5 Sep 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 5 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—Six soldiers were killed by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in an ambush on the security forces in Vavuniya, security sources told LANKAPUVATH. The sources said, a route clearing patrol in Vavuniya in the Aranthalawa area was attacked by the LTTE terrorists. The security forces returned fire and killed one terrorist.

In the Mullaitivu District, the security forces cleared LTTE landmines. Five soldiers of the clearing party were injured due to antipersonnel mine explosions. The sources further said that air force planes managed to drop 16 packages of food parcels to the Jaffna fort yesterday.

It is reported that security forces repulsed an attack by the LTTE and later recovered three antipersonnel landmines. In a separate operation in the same area, the security forces recovered one Massey Ferguson tractor, a Singer refrigerator, and a TV set from a LTTE hideout.

'Major Terrorist Bunker' Seized; 17 Killed

BK0709101290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0940 GMT 7 Sep 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 7 (LANKAPUVATH)—The security forces captured a major terrorist bunker in Mullaitivu. During these operations 17 terrorists were killed, security forces told LANKAPUVATH. They said that the Elephant Pass security detachment and the Jaffna Fort came under heavy terrorist fire. Due to mortar fire a few buildings inside the fort caught fire. It is also reported that the main water tank belonging to the Salt Corporation was blasted by the terrorists. In the Batticaloa District, a route clearing patrol recovered a Johnny mine. In another incident a home guard was injured in an attack by the terrorists.